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THE AMERICAN BEE KEEPER.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE INTERESTED IN BEES AND HONEY

JANUARY

1898

VOL. VIII. NO. 1.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE W. T. FALCONER MANFG CO

VOL. VIII. JANUARY, 1898. NO. 1.

Crocuses and Bees.

BY BESSIE L. PUTNAM.

Early in March the crocuses ap-
eared, and eagerly the bees surround-
l the beautiful blossoms, bearing
way well filled baskets of pollen. At
rst only the purple ones attracted
iese winged visitors, the white and
ightly smaller yellow blossoms being
assed unnoticed or with an air of
ontempt. As they seemed equally
ell supplied with pollen, I wondered
the distinction, which so plainly
iowed their ability to distinguish
lor. For two or three days matters
ent in about the same way, and the
xperiments of Sir John Lubbock re-
ilting in a preference for blue, seemed
illy verified. Finally the white
owers were also visited, and I no-
ced that each individual seemed to
ive its own choice regarding color.
hose that had frequented white
owers passing by purple ones with
ie same haughtiness shown by others
reviously regarding the white or yel-
w ones. Then came the query, why
ot a difference in individual tastes,
s in the genus *homo?* Later I no-
ced that after a bee had visited and
ssibly re-visited all the flowers of
his first chosen variety, he finally, perhaps, in a fit of desperation at the evident lessening of pollen supply, tested the other variety; finding it to his liking he visited other flowers of the same color with the same discrimination as before. Thus the conclusion is drawn that the color which *at first* attracts each individual is the one that will be almost invariably chosen by it until scarcity of pollen in this variety leads it to be dissatisfied and cast its lines elsewhere. Late in the season I saw some individuals working on the yellow variety, but it seemed for some reason less popular to the majority of bees than the purple or white sorts.

◆

On Wintering Bees

BY ED JOLLEY.

In reading the article of G. M. Doolittle in December BEE KEEPER, I was surprised to learn the wide range of temperature of a colony of bees. I had thought that owing to their clustering closer together the temperature would be but little lower in cold weather than warm. If anyone had asked me I should have told them that it would probably range from 90 to

97 degrees. But we see from a careful experiment that it will go nearly 30° below that.

Mr. Doolittle rightly says that it requires an extra expenditure of honey to keep up a temperature so much higher than the surrounding temperature. Using this as a basis he intimates that us fellows who advocate out-door wintering, might figure out where we are losing in dollars and cents by the practice.

I will admit that it requires more honey to carry a colony through the winter out-doors than in a repository. But there are other features to be considered besides the difference in amount of honey consumed. Now I believe success in wintering, whether in the cellar or on the summer stands, depends more on the quality of honey used than anything else. That honey that is a superior article for wintering in a *repository*, will often give dire results if used *out-doors* and *vici versa.* In fact I have proven it to be so to my satisfaction, by a series of experiments, which I will mention further on.

In this locality the bees usually get enough late fall honey to fill the brood combs. This honey comes in slowly and as the brood is decreasing, it all goes in the broodnest. It is a dark, strong and inferior quality of honey, and if we should extract it, it would be useless as we couldn't give it away. So you see, considering the quality of the honey and the quantity we usually get off it we are not out much in dollars and cents, even if it does require a little more of it to winter outdoors than in the cellar. But while this is apparently an inferior grade of honey it is a very *superior* honey for wintering on the summe stands. It is strong, aromatic an very condusive of heat. Yet it give very *poor* results when used by bees i *long, close confinement.*

When I first began keeping bees, thought too much of my bees to thin of risking them out-doors in the winter. So I put them in the cellar The nexs spring my bees all had th dysentary and dwindled away unti it took them nearly all the next season to get into shape for another winter. This I ascribed to some defec in cellar. Accordingly the next fall made arrangements with a neighbo who had a good, warm, dry cella well cemented, to let me put my bee in his cellar. The results here wer nearly or quite as bad as in my own This made me think that there migh be something in the quality of th honey, and led me to try a series o experiments as to what was the bes food for wintering and where to us it.

The next fall I selected three colonies, and took all fall honey from them, and gave them combs of clove honey instead; from three other colonies I took the honey and substitute sugar syrup instead; three colonie were allowed to retain the fall honey These colonies were as near alike a could be, and all were set in my cellar at the same time. Having bu twelve other colonies, I treated then in same manner. Giving four clove honey; four sugar syrup, and four lat fall honey. These colonies were allowed to remain on the summer stands Now as to the results: The colonie that wintered on the clover honey i the cellar came out in good condition While those with the fall honey cam ut diseased and dwindled away as be-ore. Now the result was altogether ifferent with those that wintered ut-doors. Those with the clover oney and sugar syrup were weak in ɔring and slow to build up, while ıose on the fall honey were strong ıd healthy. I then came to the ɔnclusion that as long as I could inter my bees on the summer stands ith the *cheap* honey, *better* than I ɔuld in the cellar with the cheap ɔney, and winter on the summer ands with the *cheap* honey as *well* as could in the cellar with a more *ex-nsive article* I was ahead in *dollars ɪd cents* by doing it. But if I had feed sugar or use a milder honey I ːlieve I would winter in the cellar. ıgar syrup and many of our finer ·ades of honey are mild in flavor ıd are very suitable for indoor win-ring, yet they lack the heat pro-ıcing qualties contained in the strong d more aromatic fall honey, and ıich are so necessary to successful ntering on the summer stands. ıere is more that might be said ɔng this line, but I have said enough provoke thought, and will wait un- I hear what others have to say.

Franklin, Pa.

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adian Bee Journal,	(1 00)	1 35
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OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ED. AM. BEE KEEPER, Dear Sir:—

I notice in the Nov. number of the American Bee Keeper a request for sudscribers to write from their own experience on topics pertaining to bees. I will make an attempt to do so although I have never written anything before and my experience is small. In fact I have kept bees only two seasons.

There are several old fashioned bee keepers about here who believe that bees should have water but they let them get it through leaky covers. They also believe that "larning spoils folks" and they advise beginners not to read Bee Journals and books on bee keeping,

I started bee keeping in the spring of 1896 with eleven colonies in old hives and have now in the cellar 42 swarms in good condition. I have nearly doubled them each year besides getting a large crop of honey, as I follow the plan of natural swarming; I expect to reach 84 swarms next year. Swarming here usually begins about the first part of June. The past season my first swarm issued the 7th of June and the last one the 15th of August, this latter being what I called a buckwheat swarm.

Through the winter I make my hives for the coming season and get everything in readiness, a plan which I think works nicely.

The hives I use are made 21 inches long by 14 inches wide, (outside measure,) 10 inches deep. I use eight frames in each hive and use full sheets of light brood foundation in each frame,

The past season was not an extra good one here. For a while white clover gave a very fair harvest; the basswood was far behind and in fact was almost a failure.

My honey is stored in one pound sections and the sections are removed before they become travel stained. I have no trouble in marketing them. Several other bee keepers here put their honey up in 2 lb boxes made of red pine and let them remain on the hive until they are dark colored and then sell them with the glass, weighing the glass and all, to the customer, but people do not like to pay 12 1-2 cts. per lb for glass that they cannot use, so such bee keepers find very little sale for their goods. I believe if all bee keepers would put their honey in good attractive shape and then try their home market first, looking up new customers who would take their wearly supply from them, it would in a great measure help prices in the city market. As long as I can have good success in selling honey at 12 1-2 cts. per lb. as I have had in the past year I will not trouble the commission men in the city'

I have had no experience in queen rearing, transferring, etc., and so cannot write intelligently obout them but would like to hear from others on this subject. Yours truly,

C. H. Peterson,
Crary Mills, N. Y. Dec, 15th.

OUR EXTRACTOR

(From New York Tribune)

PROGRESS IN BEE CULTURE.

What Fifty Years Have Done For Apiculture

BY A. I. ROOT.

A little more than fifty years ago man employed by my father to brimstone some skeps of bees in orde r to ge the honey. I was then three or fou years old, but I was so curious abou bees and honey that I stayed out doo on a cold autumn day until I caugh such a cold that it came very nea spoiling this chapter. I was alway an eager questioner, and I persume asked more questions about bees an other insects in a few minutes tha all my relation could answer in a many years. When I became old er ough to form an acquantance with th ants in the anthills near my home questioned my friends so eagerly an intently that when some of my olde brothers and sisters stirred up my an hill just to bother me there would hav been a free fight all around had it nc been for my good mother. When was ten years old I became the owne of a hive of bees, but when spring time came a colony belonging to nearby neighbor, came in and cleane out my hive—bees, honey and al This aroused my curisoty again, an I wanted more bees; but my goo father objected, on the ground tha they would sting people and mak trouble, and would not gather an honey to amount to much, after all.

As soon as I became a married man, and even before I had a home of my own, I procured some bees, proposing to investigate to my hearts content. However, before the bees and I became very well acquainted they decamped. But this only made me still more curious, and in a short time I was "crazy," as the neighbors said in regard to bee culture. I was prorieror of a little jewelry store at that time, where my sister assisted me in my watch-repairing, etc. I remember hearing her tell my wife one day that every old farmer who came into the store was compelled to stay until he had told me every thing he could tell and all that he had heard anybody else tell, about honey bees. I ransacked old garrets for back numbers of "The American Agriculturist," and later I got hold of "The Rural New-Yorker"; but the more I studied the more infatuated I became. When I was the happy possessor of "Langstroth on the Honey-Bee" I came pretty near sitting up all night to read the wonderful story—more wonderful and fascinating than "Robinson Crusoe," because Crusoe's island was right in my garden, where I could investigate and verify all the particulars of the wonderful story. I soon found that Mr. Langstroth was living, and saved up my money until I could purchast the best Italian queen he owned, or the best in America, as I supposed. Very likely the progeny of that $20 queen is now doing service all over the United States, more or less.

Through my influence, largely, "The American Bee Journal" was started again. it having been temporarily suspended on account of the Civil War. Through its pages I learned of the honey extractor, invented in Germany. The German machine was made of wood. In a few days I had made one according to my own notion, all of metal.

The first summer after I received my high-priced Italian Queen I neglected my buisness at the store quite a little, I fear, to rear queens and stock minature beehives, or queens-rearing hives, as we called them then. By this time I had purchased a home of my own, and the back yard with its hives of bees, all Italians, was to me the most pleasant place on the face of the whole earth. We had a very pretty garden, with currant bushes, peach trees, grapevines, etc., but my queen-rearing finally got agoing so well that Mrs. Root said when she was picking currants she expected to find a little swarm of bees clustered on almost every bush. My hives were too small, as I afterward learned, and the thrifty Italians would gather honey enough to fill the hive pretty thoroughly in a little more than one day, and then, following their instinct, they swarmed out, because they wanted more room.

As it begun to be noised around that I was "crazy on bees," a good many swarms were hived and brought to me, for it was rumored that I would give $3 or $4 for almost any kind of swarm—even though it might be a second or a third one. One experiment made late in June set me almost wild. A neighbor brought me quite a heavy swarm of bees,for which I paid him $5. These were at once run into a hive completely furnished with empty combs. Basswood and clover were just at the height of their yield. In two days' time this colony of bees with the combs already furnished brought in so much honey that the hive was really a pretty good lift. I had taken the weight on hiving them and when the scales showed that they had actually brought in and stored in the combs something like thirty pounds of honey I could hardly believe my senses. Let us consider a little. Bee culture was at a low ebb in our neighborhood then. Almost everybody I talked with said that since the forests had been cut down bees did not pay any more. Some men had twenty or thirty hives, and had not received as many pounds of honey for several years. The almost universal decision seemed to be that "bees didn't pay for the bother." Of course they didn't. There wasn't any bother and there wasn't any pay.

I increased my stock of bees to something like thirty or forty colonies; gave each colony an Italian queen, the daughter of my original Langstroth queen. During the season after this I secured 6,102 pounds of extracted honey. As this was during the time of war prices, I sold almost the entire crop at 25 cents a pound. But let me not presume to take too much of the credit right here. Other skillful beekeepers were in the field, and when accounts came out in the papers telling of the enormous crops that had been secured in occasional instances, scattered here and there, thousands of people went into the new industry. As in everything else, however, only a comparatively few succeeded. A good many of us were surprised to discover that there seemed to be no precise locality where the business always succeeded. A colony of bees under some circumstances might gather two hundred or ever three hundred pounds of honey in a season by the use of the extractor; and one man in Iowa was so sure he could do it every time that he made a bet or challenge at one of our beekeepers conventions. He had just secured an enormous crop from the great basswood-timbered regions of his state. Nobody took up his offer, however and I have never heard that he has done anything remarkable in bee culture since.

At one time it seemed as though New York State was the banner state of the union for honey. Then California eclipsed New York, and finally Wisconsin left them all in the shade in regard to the number of tons that might be secured from a given area. After that Florida came in and broke the record. Within two or three years past, however, the region around Phœnix, Ariz., has seemed to furnish more carloads of honey than the same area in any part of the world. I visited a man just about a year ago who had about three hundred stands of bees in Arizona, and these bees were all in one spot right around his home. Now, it has been pretty generally decided that a hundred hives in one place is as many as can be kept in one locality; but this man actually secured a crop of beautiful honey, averaging over two hundred pounds per colony! This seems almost incredible, but the neighbors all around him for miles in different directions did pretty nearly as well. The immense crop was secured principally from miles of alfalfa fields kept growing in wonderful luxuriance by the aid of irrigating canals which almost exhaust the entire water of Salt River.

Now, these great results are secured nly by much care, pains and study, esides hard work, in the first place, here must be a locality. Then the an who manages the bees must be a orker. He must be right in the work, eart and soul. Trusting to hired elp will never produce great results bee culture, for when a hired man as caught a glimpse of what his abil- y and skill might accomplish for imself, he will not be a hired man y longer. Among all the risky and certain occupations I should pro- unce bee culture the most precar- us. By a very little carelessness and d management a man can in a very ort time, lose all. Again, I do not now of any occupation where a man ay so quickly pick up. Beekeepers ith a hundred colonies or more often eet with losses in wintering, cutting em down to a dozen, or even a half dozen, but a man with plenty of grit d one who is well informed, will ke this remaining remnant of half a zen and in one season will almost ve his whole lot of hives and combs cupied by bees again; aud this may metimes be done by means of nat- al swarming, as well as artificial. single colony of bees with a good een will sometimes, by natural arming, increase to half a dozen or ore, and the old stock, with the aid the new one, will sometimes store veral hundred pounds of surplus, sides having enough for all of them winter. The diligent beekeeper o loves bees and (may I be per- itted to add?) God, will be constant- meeting with happy surprises. He y meet with some surprises that e not so very 'happy,'' also, it is e; but if he holds fast to his faith, studies hard with his brain, while he is not afraid to use his muscles, he will surely reap a rich harvest in due time.

A host of inventions have been made during the last fifty years to facilitate the work of the beekeeper, and many of these inventions have been along the line of simplicity. In place of the complex and expense patent hives of years ago, beekeepers now almost universally use simply a box in which to hang the frames. There are very few patent hives, and comparatively few patented appliances in use. Great progress has been made in the matter of making both hives and honey-boxes by means of automatic machinery, and so they may be offered at a very low price In fact, hives and honey-boxes are now furnished in many localities at a price less than what the bare lumber would cost if you were to go to the average carpenter shop and try to buy it. The honey-extractor has not been very greatly changed from what it was when I made my first metal ones, something over thirty years ago. Perforated zinc for excluding drones, and comb foundation for preventing the production of drones, have both been the means of making colonies valuable that would otherwise be unprofitable. Utensils to hold honey for market, both wood and glass, have been greatly improved. Comb honey is now put up in much more attractive form, and the cost of the box, or "section," that holds it, is far less than the old-fashioned wooden drawers. Hives are now equipped with combs all worked, much more accurate in mathematics than any the bees every built for themselves. Ingenious machines at a low price for driving the bees out of the way by means of smoke are now a regular article of merchandise. Bee veils to put over the face; tents to set over the hive; knives especially designed for the beekeeper, are also to be found with every supply dealer.

Several years ago we fondly hoped to find plants that could be grown for honey alone, but in this we have been disappointed. Perhaps this is because the beekeeper must have acres or even miles, if you choose,of honey yielding plants to have them amount to much. The principal sources of honey are the clovers, and as these all have a value for other purposes than honey, they stand well at the head. I should place basswood next, and, as this wood is getting to be quite valuable for timber we can get large crops of honey from it while it is being grown for that purpose. A good-sized basswood tree may keep a considerable colony of bees busily employed, at least, during the early hours of the days, and I should say, at a rough guess, that such a tree might furnish several pounds of nectar every day while it is in bloom. Buckwheat might perhaps come next. In many parts of New York, not only tons upon tons, but carloads of buckwheat honey alone are gathered each year. A very beautiful, thick and transparent honey is gathered in California from a species of mountain sage, and this is thought by many to be quite similar to if not the very same as the famed honey of Mount Hymettus, that is spoken of in both prose and poetry in ancient history.

"How to Manage Bees," a 50c book, and the American Bee-Keepre a year for only 60c.

(Written by E. Kretchmer for United States' Bee Keepers' Union.)

THE SHIPPING OF COMB HONE

That man never gets too old t learn, proves true to many of us. A though I had shipped tons of hone prior to 1893, it was during the Co umbian Exposition in Chicago, whil in charge of the Iowa honey exhib that several heretofore unnotice changes in the packing of comb hone presented themselves, and which du ing the second installment of hone for that exposition was put to pract cal test. Prior to the time named, a though we packed the honey with du care, I had no knowledge of the actu condition in which it arrived at i destination.

Although the first shipment of hone for the Columbian Exposition wa packed with great care, many of th cases, when unpacking them at th fair grounds, were not in as good condition at we desired they should b in some of the cases it appeared as only a single comb had become detached from the section, and in th moving of the crates, this loose com had fallen against the next comb an knocked it off the section, and th force of the two combined against th next, had broken it out likewise, until the entire row of honey from th glass to the back of the case, wa broken down; the leaking honey, a though retained in the case, soake into the wood of the next sections,an also damaged these.

In the second shipment for the Iow exhibit we effectually prevented th above described damages by construc ing the shipping cases wider an deeper: We placed a sheet of manill paper in the bottom with the edge neatly turned up, forming a shallow pan; within this pan we nailed small triangular strips on which we placed the sections of honey, and between the several rows inserted wood seperators, in the same manner as in the supers. Whilst the use of paper pans in the shipping cases, and strips of wood under the sections is now wellknown to many, it may be a matter of surprise to them to know that they are not yet in general use, and the writer found it necessary to write numerous letters to fully explain their uses.

Separators in shipping cases are, I think, not yet very much used, but I find that if seperators are used, a comb broken from a section is confined to the space within that section; it cannot break or deface the next adjoining section, whereas, if the separators are not added, the entire row is frequently broken down. Wood separators are cheap, costing less than two cents for a case, whilst their benefit s more than ten-fold. I therefore think that no shipping-case is complete without the separators.

I have been to some expense, both at the World's fair and while visiting numerous honey markets, to ascertain he most desirable size, form and deailed construction of shipping cases, nd it appears that commission merhants and retail dealers in honey prefer a case holding 24 sections, single tier high, with glass on one side rom 2 to 3 inches wide, with the top oards fitting between the front cleat nd the back, so as to hold the top in lace while retailing from the case, nd so as not to show the joint on the ront or glass cleat.

In this paper I will not say where, r to whom to ship, but outline more fully the form of shipping-cases, how to fill them, and how to forward them, and when, and thereby prepare the way for a fruitful discussion.

As already stated, the 24-section case, showing four sections through the glass, seemed to be preferred, and therefore we should furnish the size and form desired. In construction the cases should be light, the cleats for holding the glass should be grooved not rabbeted, and the glass slid into these grooves so that, should the glass break, the grooves will retain the pieces in position. Having placed the paper pan and wood strips in the bottom, select 24 sections of honey, as nearly alike as you can; place four average sections near the glass, top up, that is, in the same position as they were on the hive; if inverted some open cell is liable to leak, and the running over the white face of the comb mars the beauty of its appearance. Should there be a little space endwise, make them tight with little wedges at the end; next drop in a wood separator, which should be as wide as the hight of the sections. In this manner fill the case, wedge up the back of the sections so they are tight sidewise, lay on another sheet of paper, which should be large enough to project a little with the edges, then fasten on the top, preferably with small screws.

Goods shipped by express must be speedly loaded and unloaded, and are consequently not handled with the same care as freight shipments, where ample time is usually taken to load and unload; therefore honey shipped by freight arrives usually in better condition than when shipped by express; but express shipments go through in less time than shipments by freight, and if as a matter of speed honey has to be shipped by express, I find that single shipping cases without being crated or connected with other cases, go by express in better condition, and are handled more carefully, than heavier crates; but shipments by freight or in wagons should have 6 or 8 cases crated together in open crates so as to show the glass and honey through the openings, with a liberal supply of straw under them. The addition to the directions to so load that the edge of the comb should be towards the locomotive, is, I find never regarded, as the crates are usually so placed to fit the space in the car; but the top of the crate should have in large, plain letters this direction: "THIS SIDE MUST BE UP," which is usually regarded.

In hauling, I advise the use of vehicles with springs. If such cannot be had, a liberal supply of straw under the crates, and slow driving would be desirable.

Do not attempt to ship comb honey great distances in warm weather, nor when the honey is liable to freeze, as it is more liable to break and leak. I well remember how a careless shipment in hot weather nearly ruined the honey market of a city; the honey arrived badly broken and the cases leaked, the dealer in his eagerness to dispose of it, labeled it: "Comb honey, 8 cents." The market reports of the local paper next quoted: "Comb honey 8 cents per pound." This quotation spread to near by places, and for months this was the prevailing price.

W. M. Gerrish, East Nottingham, N. H., keeps a complete supply of our goods and Eastern customers will save freight by ordering from him.

(From Bee Keepers Record).—(British).

ABOUT BEES AND BEE KEEPING.

THE PLEASURE OF IT.

BY HENRY W. BRICE.

Whilst prepared to admit that the large majority of bee keepers join the craft mainly with an eye to the commercial point of view, it should not be taken for granted that this is the only end to be attained. Quite a substantial minority keep bees either simply for the pleasure of it or for the purpose of studying the lower animal creation. The number who have started bee keeping for the pleasure it affords to set up a colony of busy little laborers in one's garden, whose work in the summer time seems to add sunshine to *sunshine*, to say nothing of those who find their pleasure in advancing the science, is much larger than is generally thought, snd it seems to me that such individuals form the very backbone of our pursuit. At the same time, it should not for a moment be understood that profit from bee keeping is not acceptable; far from it. In fact, it is a clear sign of the times that everything we now take in hand in the present day must be regarded from the £. s. d. point of view. This particular phase of bee keeping sets one wondering what the position would be if the profit to be got from them permeated all the pursuits in life which are included in the word "hobbies." It is not easy to imagine a man making a hobby of, let us say his home garden, and lovingly tending the flowers it contains as one of the joys of life, yet only finding the pleasure of it in proportion to the amount of cash he can realize from the sale of his precious blooms! Does it not rudely brush aside the charm of a "hobby" when £. s. d. is the predominant factor in the case?

Then, I ask, why should bee keeping be tolerated as the pleasant pursuit we believe it is only so long as it pays well? None will dispute the fact that a "paying hobby" is a *rara avis*, but I take leave to say that *our* hobby comes under that category. Nor is it a mere figure of speech to say that it is one of the most pleasure-giving pastimes conceivable to those who possess a love of the country and of nature's wonders. For the scientific mind, too, there is a fund of delightful research in studying the bee and its ways, sufficient to amply recommend bee keeping from *that* side of the question. But when we come to regard the keeping of bees only as a paying concern, and find *our* hobby disparaged because of the low price the bee keeper has to take for his produce, or because we are doing away with its advantages by enlisting too many recruits in our Associations, it is, to my mind, ignoring much that is well worth thinking of among the many pleasures of bee keeping. Those who expect to make a fortune out of it will, of course, be disappointed; but are we to take no account of the good it does to one's health and strength to be up and out in the early morn of summer time among the bees? An hour so spent—before breakfast and the daily journey to town—is surely worth something. Again, what is the good of worrying, as some do, because of the fear that "too many are starting bee keeping? It does not create distrust and suspicion among neighbors, but the very opposite. At least I find it so, and my official experience as a county secretary goes to prove that in the great majority of cases love of the pursuit tends to promote an amount of friendly feeling and kindly regard between members such as will be found in few associations, whatever their object.

I contend that bee keeping is, *par excellence*, a health giving recreation, no less for a busy man than for the studious scientist. And I also again say that, if followed earnestly and intelligently, it will yield more profit for the labor involved than any pursuit that can be included in the term "home hobby." But when it is regarded simply as an occupation for money making, and worrying about because honey is fetching a penny a pound less this year, all the joy goes, and one fails to see the pleasure of it in any shape.

I write this because of hoping to see in the coming year more general heartiness on the part of bee keepers in supporting county associations, not for the direct or personal good derived from membership, but for the all-around benefit afforded to the craft, in standing together for the general advantage which only co-operation can give. Those who have to bear the burden of the work done all over the kingdom will, I am sure, feel more encouraged to continue it, if members and bee keepers generally would regard the industry a little less closely from the £ s. d. point, and think more of "the pleasure of it." I say this, "knowing whereof I speak."

Our 1898 catalogue will not be mailed before February 1st, but orders can be made up from our 1897 catalog, as there will be very few if any changes in prices for next season.

(From American Bee Journal.)

ABOUT THE CELLAR WINTERING OF BEES.

BY C. P. DADANT.

The time has come to put the bees into winter quarters, and if they are to be placed in the cellar, that job ought not to be deferred beyond December 10, unless the weather is unusually fair. As a matter of course it is not advisable to move them to the cellar in warm weather, for they are much more restless, and more bees are lost, than in cold weather. In addition to this, the warm days are beneficial to them if they can have a flight.

When we put bees into our bee-cellar, we usually select a cold day, in the beginning of December, or the last days of November. The caps or covers of the hives are left on the summer stand with the number of each hive marked inside of the cap, so that they may be returned to the same spot in the spring. We know that many apiarists consider this superfluous. We do not, for we have had very clear evidence that many of the bees remember their location, even after four months of confinement, and that a change helps to bewilder them when they are first removed. It may not be amiss to state in what manner we ascertained this.

We have, in our home apiary, two styles of hives, that is, hives containing frames of two different sizes. About half of them are with our regular Quinby frames, and the rest in frames similar to the American hive frames, measuring about 12x13 inches. As it is inconvenient to have the two different styles side by side, we have separated the hives into two yards, one on each side of the road leading up to the house. A few years ago, it happened that, in catching two or three swarms, some of the hives were placed in the wrong yard, and we neglected to move them away. When they were put in winter quarters, we concluded that we would make the exchange in the spring, at their removal from the cellar. This was done. All the colonies that were removed from the cellar that day behaved very nicely, except the two or three that had been exchanged in location. The uproar among these was such that we concluded to move them back, so as to regain the lost bees.

We believe a great deal of the trouble experienced by beginners with bees that are removed from the cellar —hive deserting, fighting, dwindling —during the first few days, is caused by their having placed them in a changed location. So we strongly urge those who can do it easily, to leave the cap, or cover, with a mark at the exact spot occupied by the hive. This cap, or cover, is not needed in the cellar, for the bees should be given a certain amount of upward ventilation.

We do not like to place any of the hives next to the cellar floor. In all our experience, whenever the combs have suffered from mold, or the hive has proven damp, it was in the lowest tiers, in the cellar. If the hives are kept on joists or shelves, a foot or more from the floor, the conditions will be much more satisfactory. But they may be piled up in tiers of three, four or even more. The entrance is left wide open, but darkness is necessary, and quiet is just aa indepensable as the absence of light. We have a special room partitioned off in our home cellar for the bees, but we also keep apples and potatoes in it. We do not use the cellar more than one winter out of every five for wintering the bees, for the reason that I have stated in a former article. We are on the limit of safe outdoor wintering, but when the bees are in good condition, strong and populous, when the honey is of good quality and plentiful, and the winter is fairly mild at its beginning, we prefer the natural hibernation.

An ordinary house-cellar is sufficient if the portion reserved to the bees is portitioned off in some manner to make it dark, and if the temperature can be kept without much trouble at the proper degree. From 40° to 50° is the best temperature. We have heard it said, by men who claimed to know, that a moist cellar could be kept at a much higher temperature, and that the bees would winter well in it. We have even heard a beekeeper assert that bees would remain quiet in a cellar with a temperature of 60° or 80°, but we afterward found out that this man did not have a thermometer in his cellar and waa "just guessing" at the degree. This is wrong. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well, and the cost of a thermometer is not o great that a practical man should winter his bees on a guess.

In ordinary winters, we find it less difficult to keep the temperature above he limit mentioned than below it. Fifty or 100 colonies of bees, grouped ogether in a cellar, that will usually keep fruits or pototoes will be found o raise the temperature very rapidly, f no outside current tempers it. We must remember that the bees are warm, bodied insects, and keep their cluster at blood heat. This, of course, must necessarily act upon the air of a closed apartment, materially increasing the degree of heat. So we find it quite indispensable to keep the cellar-windows partly open, with a shutter that excludes the light. The quanity of air given is measured according to the atmospheric conditionsand the warmth of the cellar. Many of our good bee keepers pay daily attention to their bees, and find it as necessary to do so when they are housed up at as any other time. It is certain that only by such watchfulness can bee culture be made a success. The bee business, as Mr. Heddon said, is altogether "a business of details."

(From Pennsylvania Farmer)

DO BEES INJURE GRAPES?

Prof. Troop of the Indiana Experiment Station, has been investigating this subject, with the following result:

He says: There is a great difference of opinion among wellinformed fruit growers as to whether the honey bee actually destroys ripe grapes without any assistance. In order to secure reliable data on this question, some careful observations were made during the past season. A Worden grapevine was selected, and when the fruit was ripe all defective berries and surplus leaves were removed, so as to allow the bees free movement and give them every facility for work. A colony of Italian bees was then placed close to the vine, and both vine and hive enclosed with mosquitto netting, giving the bees about 300 cubic feet of space in which to work. At first they did not take kindly to the confinement, but after the first few days did not seem to mind it. They were kept confined with the grapes just three weeks, and during this time they were removed and the grapes carefully examined, but it could not be discovered that a single grape had been injured. The natural inference is, that if the bees could not be induced to eat the grapes when kept in close confinement with them, they are not likely to do them much injury when at liberty to seek the food they like best.

It is wellknown that certain wasps will cut the skin of grapes, and I have always held to the opinion that the wasp was the culprit which opens the door for the bees to enter. This opinion has been confirmed the past season, when two species of the genus Polistes, or social wasps, were seen to light on the grapes and with their sharp jaws tear open the skin and suck the juice, after which the honey bees would usually finish the work. In fact, it would be a very stupid bee that would not avail itself of such an opportunity.

(From New York Sun.)

BEES BRING BLISS.

An Unusual Train of Events at a Country Funeral in Maine.

During a funeral in the town of Cutler two days ago two lovers who had been alienated from each other for a month were brought together under peculiar and painful circumstances, and before the services were ended a complete reconcilation was effected. The chief mediators in the affair were honey bees—a whole swarm of them.

After short services at the house the body was taken to the family tomb in another part of the town. Willis Smith the rejected suitor, one of the pallbearers, rode in a carriage ahead of the hearse, and Miss Milly Loring, the woman in the case, occupied a top buggy driven by Mr. Clark, and brought up the rear of the procession amoung the neighbors and friends, As soon as the tomb was unlocked and the coffin taken to its resting place great crowds of angry bees swarmed out, stinging kindred, friends and bearers, untill everybody howled with pain. Mr. Clark, the man who was escorting Miss Loring, jumped from his carriage and fled for a stream of water 20 rods away, whereupon his horse got up a brisk runaway right among the mourners. The animal had made one circuit about the cemetery and was bolting through the gate for a two-mile home run, when it was caught by Mr. Smith. who led it to a place of safety, and did what he could to alleviate the distress of Miss Loring. Meantime the men of the party had built a fire, which scorched the wings of the bees and caused them to fall to the ground.

When Mr. Clark returned from the stream he found Mr. Smith and Miss Loring sitting side by side applying wet clay to their bee stings. Both were eating honey and talking as if they had always been friends. Mr. Clark took his horse and drove home without asking any questions.

HONEY BEES CAPTURE A SHIP.

The bark Shirley, which has carried millions of feet of lumber on the Pacific coast, is now said to have aboard a small cargo of honey. Her owners recently decided to put her in the Klondike service and L. B. Mitchell was sent to Quartermaster Harbor with men to get her ready for repairs.

"We found that she had been taken possession of by honey bees," Mitchell says, "and in going into her we found every passage and room was apparently full of bees. We shut the hatchway and thought we had them imprisoned, but we found a steady stream going and coming through the hole left for a stovepipe in the cabin. We were on board thirty minutes, and in that time the column of bees continued to move, making a noise like escaping steam. We were unable to work on board until something should be done. We lowered into the hull a tank of burning cedar bark and closed up everything. A great many of the bees were killed, but we were unable to go into the bark the next day. Some think she may contain a ton of honey or even more."

HONEY-ANT PIE.

Savages, we know, indulge in such luxuries as grubs and locusts, but for a civilized white man to finish up his dinner with a dish of raw ants seems too nasty to be credible. Yet in Mexico it is the custom, and a custom adopted by plenty of colonists and visitors.

The ant eaten is called the honey ant, and is perhaps as curious an insect as lives. With a tiny head and legs, it has a hugh body as big as a large pea, and this is yellow and swollen with excellent honey.

In each nest there are 300 or 400 of these honey ants, which are attended by thousands of others. The honey ants hang on to the roof of the cells in the nest while the others feed them. They are, in fact, living storehouses of winter food. An observer says that if one of the honey ants falls from his perch, a worker will go and pick him up and replace him. This is as if a man were to walk up the face of a cliff carrying a large buffalo or cart horse on his back.

"A Calcutta physician who was attacked by a swarm of bees," says Popular Science News, "was stung on the hand, head, face and neck, no fewer than 150 stings being afterward taken taken from his neck. Fortunately he had some ipecacuanha powder with him, which he immediately made into a paste and smeared over the head, face and neck. The effect was most marked, preventing to a large extent the swelling and pain which invariably follow the bee's stings."

It is asserted by a correspondent of the Gardener's Chronicle that wasps not only devour ripe fruits, such as apricots, grapes and pears, but that they extend their ravages to rosebuds and blown roses. The blossoms and buds covering two flourishing rose bushes belonging to him were destroyed by wasps, in spite of the battle which he waged with the insects for the preservation of his flowers.

Prices of Sections.

Prices of sections for the season of 1898 will remain as follows:

	No 1.	No. 2.		No. 1.	No. 2.
Per 100—	$ .50.	$ .40.	Per 1000 @	$3,00	$2.50.
" 250—	.85.	.75.	" 2000 @	2.85	2.35.
" 500—	1.50.	1.25.	" 3000 @	2.75	2.25

5000 @ $2 50 per M.

Large quantities will be quoted on application.

The above prices are the same as are charged by all manufacturers of and dealers in first class sections. Further changes of prices of supplies will be found in our 1898 catalog which will be ready Feb. 1st, and will be mailed free to anyone asking for it.

The American Bee-Keeper,

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EDITORIAL.

We are in receipt of a copy of the 13th annual report of the manager of the National Bee Keepers' Union, which certainly shows the Union to be in a very healthy condition. The appeals for assistance were more numerous during 1897 than in any previous year. The membership is large and constantly increasing.

Canada is getting to be a hot country for bee keepers; a record breaker in fact. J. B. Hall, the veteran comb-honey man of Woodstock, Ont., reports having had combs actually melted down in the sections during the past season.

The question is asked in A. B. J., "What is the largest number of colonies ever successfully kept in a single apiary at any one time in any part of the world." C. C. Miller replies, "six-hundred have been profitable kept in one apiary. I'm not sure whether more." According to Mr. Osborn, the natives of Cuba keep as high as 2,000 in one yard and make it pay well.

Is not the expert testimony regarding the influence of a honey flow upon the work of drawing out foundation, as presented by Editors Holtermann and Root, liable to perplex the bee keeping student? See editorials in Canadian Bee Journal, March, '97, page 1035, and Gleanings, Sept. 1, '97, page 639. Whether bees do a better job of thinning foundation during a scant or brisk flow of honey, is the question. Editor Holtermann says the former, Editor Root illustrates an example directly opposite.

C. F. Muth, in the A. B. J., says: "If the duty were taken off the import of foreign honey, Cuba alone would swamp our country, and deal a blow at the most vital parts of apiculture." It seems almost incredible that the honey product of an island much less in extent than the state of New York, having the other markets of the world and a home population of 2,000,000 to supply, could swamp this nation of 70,000,000 people. If such is the case, the possible acquisition of that island, from the American bee keepers' standpoint, is quite a serious matter; yet they seem sufficiently self-sacrificing for humanity's sake, to welcome a practical trial of the experiment.

The subject of marketing honey is crowded off the program of the W. N. Y., N. W. P. &. E. O. Bee-Keepers' convention entirely, by such problems as "house apiaries," "artificial increase" and "spring management." If it is really a fact that these matters are of primary interest to bee keepers at this time, as indicated, it is evident that the importance of united action tending toward the development of the honey market has been greatly overestimated by certain specialists and the bee keeping press. The market demand for apiary products, it would seem, is the only foundation upon which to build, being the sole support of the industry for all time. Is this matter of devising some means of creating a popular demand for our product, not worthy of a place alongside of such questions as "artificial increase," before a convention of honey producers?

To the question of a correspondent in Gleanings: "Can I not put off feeding until winter?", Mr. Doolittle replies thus emphatically: "No! a thousand times *no!* When will people learn not to put off the feeding of bees 'till cold weather comes."

The latest census reported about 170,000 colonies of bees in Ontario, Canada.

Californians want the next convention of the United States Bee Keepers' Union. San Francisco's the place, they say,

The spring rush for the Klondike gold fields will soon begin, and in anticipation of it the Northren Pacific Railway Co, has issued a very comprehensive pamphlet on the Alaskan Gold Fields, giving in detail the best routes to go, and the distances, the articles to take along. the cost, etc. The pamphlet is called the "Key to Klondike." If any bee keepers contemplate going there, they will find much valuable information in it and it will pay to get a copy which can be had for a 2c stamp sent to Charles S. Fee, general passenger agent, St. Paul. It is needless to say you cannot keep bees in Klondike.

We will send the AMERICAN BEE KEEPER one year and a box of garden seeds (price $1.60) for 75c postpaid.

F. T. Hall, Wisconsin, recently put an end to the destructive work of a 4-000 pound bear in his apiary by a well aimed rifle bullet.

According to accounts in the Pacific Bee Journal, the bee keeper out that way that does not report nine tons and upwards this year, is a "little fellow."

Literary Items

MARK TWAIN'S NEW STORY.

Mark Twain's new humerous story, which he is now writing in Vienna, is to go to *The Ladies' Home Journal.* which magazine has also secured F. Marion Crawford's new story, which is a tale of the unreal, with the striking uncanny title of "The Dead Smile."

"WHAT TO EAT" FOR JANUARY—"HOW TO KEEP YOUNG"

is the title of another article in What To Eat for January, and it will interest everybody who has passed twenty.

If you want to "swear off" in a sensible manner for the coming year, read the pledge contained on the front page. It promises what any of us ought to cheerfully subscribe to. "Frauds in Flour" and "Frauds in Food and Drink" form the subject of particularly vigorous editorials, and choice recipes, poems and stories make up the rest of the number.

It is announced that the winners of the prize poem contest will be given in the next issue. 10c a copy, $1 a year. Address Pierce & Pierce, Publishers, Minneapolis, Minn.

THE HUSBAND'S SOLILOQUY.

When we clean house, I'm homeless for a week.
When we clean house, my life is cold and bleak.
My wife she works away
And "airs the house" all day.
Oh, what a disarray
When we clean house!

When we clean house, woe fathomless is mine.
The things are shook and hung upon a line.
I cannot find my clothes,
And where my meerschaum goes
The future only shows
When we clean house.

When we clean house, I feel that I have sinned.
When we clean house, we mostly live on wind.
We have our little snacks
And dine on beats and whacks
And soap and carpet tacks
When we clean house.

—Detroit Free Press.

GREATEST OF THREE.

He was first of all her husband's friend and then her own, and this is the story of how she saved him in a time of great danger and stood herself on the brink of another and greater peril.

Evey Lancaster was one of those women who marry men they averagely love and are faithful wives and devoted mothers so long as passion, going down the country lane of their peaceful lives, passes them by on the other side. She, perhaps, loved her husband more than these women usually do, but then she was made of sterner stuff, and where there is more to conquer there is more to suffer Small blame to her, since heaven had made her charming. Small blame to Edward Vereker, her husband's friend. since he found her so, and he himself as goodly a man as you would meet on any summer's day. Her husband. David Lancaster, was a goodly man, too, and worthy of her and of Edward Vereker, his friend.

But there were three of them, and three is an evil number concerning men and women.

* * * * * * *

It was during the summer of 1893 that Edward Vereker and Evey, his friend's wife, began to be more than friends. He was staying with the Lancasters down in Surrey in their pretty little red house on the edge of the pretty little blue river, and David was going up and down to London every day because it was yet early, and the various vacations and holidays had not begun. So he and she were left a good deal on one another's hands. Satan found mischief, not for those idle hands, but idle eyes, for that summe one's hands remained in one's lap and it was too hot even to talk, but it is a easy to look at one's neighbor as to stare blankly into space, and eyes can do a great deal by themselves, take it altogether.

So these two sat in the shady garden under the big cedars and looked at one another for want of something better to do and found the occupation suffice for all their needs.

Evey Lancaster was a good woman—by nature, not by art. I mean she was naturally good and had not become so by trying very hard. She had been wel brought up; she read decent books, and therefore, only a few, and she mean every word of her share in the marriage service.

But, alas and alas, she was a woman. and a pretty one, and Edward Vereker was good looking and a man, though somewhat unusually moral and possessed of a sense of honor. Moreover, they both loved David. But David was away all day, and—I mistrust June and the devil in a green garden!

I don't know that anything would have come of it if tragedy had not stepped in; Adelphi tragedy, battle, murder and sudden death in one of its most appalling forms in the shape of hydrophobia.

Evey and Edward had been unnecessarily energetic that day. Perhaps they both uncomfortably realized that sitting under the trees saying nothing was becoming a little exciting. At any rate Evey went to the gunroom and brought out a Smith & Wesson of her husband's, and they set up a mark in the meadow outside the garden, and, having prudently removed the cows, practiced shooting in the cool of the day. They shot very badly, but they had to look at the target, and that was comparative safety. They got tired of it at last, and she sat down under one of the great oak trees flanking the garden with the revolver in her lap, while he sauntered across the grass to rearrange the somewhat shaky target.

She was near the gate leading to the road, and it was open, for the cows had gone that way to the farmyard, and in June, 1893, gates that it was not an imperative necessity to shut remained open for coolness' sake.

And here the Adelphi melodrama came in, and through the open gate, too, heralded by "shouts outside"—a strange heart sickening clamor coming up from the hush of evening distance—hoarse, scared yells, and the tramp of running feet and confused directions apparently issued in many voices. And through the open gate a horror rushed, a creature with dripping jaws and staring eyes, a big, black retriever, bearing in its strange, altered state but little resemblance to the friendly, kindly dog of a few days back, and at its heels a concourse of men armed with sticks and farm implements and any weapon that could be hastily snatched up, but none, alas, with a gun.

Evey Lancaster, revolver in hand, with shells still remaining in a couple of chambers, saw the mad dog enter the meadow and make straight across it out over the sunburned grass to where Edward Vereker was walking toward the target. She was under the shadows of the hedge, broadside on, as it were, and the dog never noticed her.

Edward Vereker turned on his heel at the sound of the noise at the gate, and, like Evey, took in the situation at a glance. But he was absolutely unarmed—he had not even a stick, and he was alone in the midst of a wide field with death in its foulest form not 80 yards from him.

Then Evey Lancaster, from where she knelt on the grass under the hedge, took aim and fired. She was his friend and knew that his life was at stake, and that quickened the presence of mind and the courage within her. She was made of British stuff, and that steadied the shaking hand and kept the revolver straight, and though the first bullet went wide the second carried true, and the mad dog, with a hideous yell, dropped disabled with a shattered shoulder not 15 paces from him. Then the crowd closed in and put an end to everything.

Five minutes later Edward Vereker and the woman who had saved him, leaving the excited villagers still clustered round the horror on the grass, went back into the garden.

It was as much as she could do to walk now that the strain was past, being only a woman after all, and the green garden was going round and round in a dim mist that smelled of gunpowder and grew blacker at every step.

He saw her falter and stop and was only in time to catch her in his arms to prevent her collapsing on the lawn at his feet. The earth and sky might wheel and melt into a blackening mist at will, but a pair of strong arms were round her and her cheek on a protecting shoulder.

Strong emotions make us view the world in a distorted light with our mental as well as our bodily eyes, and there was no David in the green garden behind the high hedge, only a brave woman, weak and trembling, with her head on the breast of the man she had rescued from worse than death—the man who called her "Evey, my darling," and passionately kissed her.

* * * * * * *

David Lancaster came home in the gloaming half an hour later, with a piece of salmon in a bass bag and the fifth Globe with all the latest cricket in it.

Evey, up at her window, white and trembling still, watching with half averted eyes a figure pacing up and down under the cedars, saw her husband coming in at the gate, saw him join the restless figure and tramp up and down in company and knew the story was being told him, for with a kiss had come awakening and shame, as it came with the knowledge of good and evil into the first garden.

Some time later the two men came back to the house, and Evey's preternaturally sharpened ears heard Edward ascend to his own room and David turn down the passage to come to hers. She stood in the middle of the floor in her white gown, her hair slightly ruffled, her face drawn with the stress of emotion which she had undergone, her hands—those little hands that had done so much—hanging limply by her side. And David opened the door and came in.

She could not look at his face, but she understood as he walked across the room to where she stood and took her straight and unhesitatingly into his arms that somehow, in spite of all, he knew about the kiss and had forgiven her. And the kiss was all she could remember of her past life.

When David Lancaster went up stairs to his wife and took her to his heart without asking for a word of explanation on her part, he did the one thing that saved him and her and Edward Vereker from shipwreck.

I read a story once in which the concluding sentence ran thus, "And so by a little thing was a woman saved from the misfortune of a great passion."

Edward Vereker, having done all that lay in his power to atone for what had happened, left the house early next morning without seeing Evey again. And her husband shook hands with him at parting.

* * * * * * *

They have not met since, except casually in society, and then they meet and greet as friends. They had fallen a little way together and repented of it, and with repentance comes revulsion of feeling and with that the end of all things that might have been, withered untimely in the budding of passion's poppy flowers.

So she was heroic in that she saved him, and he was noble in that he confessed his kiss to her husband. But somehow it seems to me that the greatest of these three was David Lancaster, who heard and understood and yet, hearing and understanding, forgave.—Black and White.

The Bacon Folly.

It was inevitable that the Bacon folly should proceed to commit suicide by piling up extravagances. By some methods one can prove anything, and accordingly we find writers busy in tracing Bacon's hand in the writings of Greene, Marlowe, Shirley, Marston, Massinger, Middleton and Webster. They are sure that he was the author of Montaigne's essays, which were afterward translated into what we have always supposed to be the French original. Mr. Donnelly believes that Bacon also wrote Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy." Next comes Dr. Orville Owen with a new cipher which proves that Bacon was the son of Queen Elizabeth by Robert Dudley, and that he was the author of the "Fae Queene" and other poems attributed Edmund Spenser.

Finally we have Mr. J. E Roe, wh does not mean to be outdone. He as us what we are to think of the noti that an ignorant tinker like John Bu yan could have written the most perfe allegory in any language. Perish t thought! Nobody but Bacon could hav done it. Of course Bacon had been mo than 50 years in his grave when "Pi grim's Progress" was published as Bu yan's, but your true Baconizer is neve stopped by trifles. Mr Roe assures u that Bacon wrote that heavenly boo as well as "Robinson Crusoe" and th "Tale of a Tub," which surely begi to make him seem ubiquitous and eve lasting If things go on at this rate, w shall presently have a religious sec holding as its first article of faith tha Francis Bacon created the heavens an the earth in six days and rested on th seventh day.—John Fiske in Atlantic

An Enemy of Humanity.

There are probably few persons of ma ture years who have not read the stor of the man who put the sick beggar up on his best horse in order to take hin to his home and friends. The begga suddenly recovered his strength an rode off with the horse that was th pride of the desert and the fortune o his owner. The man called after th thief and begged him to halt for a moment. Safe from pursuit, he did so, when his benefactor implored him neve to tell how he obtained the horse, as the incident, if known, might stand in the way of relief of some honest beggar who sought charity by the wayside. Although it is claimed that the story is a very old one, it is just as applicable to our time as it was when the affair occurred.

It is the professional beggar who makes the most terrible suffering possible to those who are too proud, too honest or too timid to ask for what they need.—New York Ledger.

Love's Exit.

"I never could see any sense in that saying that love laughs at locksmiths."

"You couldn't? Well, it is because he has no need for the door. Don't you know that love flies out at the window?"—Chicago Post.

UNCLE JIM'S DANCING.

Uncle Jim, he'd never been
To any city ball
Until he come a-visitin
The folks in town last fall;
Could dance until you couldn't rest,
Knowed how to fling his heel,
But all the dance he knowed wuz jest
The old Virginny reel.

So when they took him to the ball
The gals had lots of fun.
He went a-slippin crost the hall
An bumpin every one.
Of course he couldn't waltz, but they
Jest made believe he could.
They kept on whirlin him away.
'Twuz worse than splittin wood.

Jest serious as could be he kept
A-goin roun an roun.
On all the ladies' trains he stepped
When he warn't fallin down.
He stood it jest as long as he
Could stand it; then he throwed
His hat down till they laughed to see,
Then jerked his coat an blowed.

He give his galluses a hitch
An squared himself, an then
As quick as that they seen him pitch
Right 'mongst the gals an men.
'Twas dancin now without a doubt,
Fer then they seen him peel
His weskit off an jump about
In a Virginny reel.

—Atlanta Constitution

A MUTUAL FRIEND.

Howard, desiring to bring Ferguson and Walker into a fellowship like that of Damon and Pythias, set them so far apart that oceans roll between them and deserts parch and bake. This is, of course, a figure of speech, for Ferguson and Walker both live in Chicago, where there are no oceans or deserts.

But the feeling of loathing which has risen up to separate these two men whom Howard had hoped to make firm friends accomplishes the purpose of desert and ocean and mountain chain too. And yet the two men have met but once, and then only to say "How d'ye do?"

Howard lives in Pocatello, Ida. To Pocatello a year ago went Ferguson, journeying on some affair connected with the railroad company which pays him well for knowing intricate and hidden things about the transportation business. Ferguson was in Pocatello for two weeks. It was a gloomy sort of exile, and but for the presence of Howard, whom he met on the first day of his visit, he would have suffered horrible pangs and gripings of lonesomeness, but Howard, bright, entertaining and all informed, was as a wellspring of happiness and made the railroad man's stay in the sunburned regions of Idaho a pleasant vacation, and when Ferguson was ready to leave Howard said to him:

"Now, old man, I want you to be sure and meet my friend Walker. It's a shame that two such splendid fellows should live in the same town and be strangers. I've written a letter of introduction, and you just walk around to his place when you get back to Chicago and go out and take one on me. You'll like Walker and he'll like you."

Ferguson thanked Howard with an easy conscience, for he, too, thought it would be pleasant to meet one whom Howard recommended for his worth.

Then he returned to Chicago.

The letter of introduction nestled in his pocket for a month, quite forgotten. At the expiration of that time Ferguson received a note from Howard, who wanted to know something about a business matter which they had discussed in Pocatello. As a postscript Howard added the question:

"You have seen Walker, of course? Great fellow, isn't he?"

"Walker, Walker—let me see," Ferguson mused. "Who in thunder is Walker? Oh, yes. That fellow I have the letter of introduction to. Well, I really must call on him."

The same mail which bore the missive to Ferguson also carried one to Walker. Howard, among other things, wrote these words: "You remember Ferguson, whom I asked you to call upon? What do you think of him? He's the right sort, isn't he?"

"By George," Walker cried on reading Howard's letter, "he did ask me to drop in on somebody named Ferguson, to whom he had given a letter for presentation to me. And I've clean forgotten it. Wonder where the man's to be found?" He examined the directory's list of Fergusons, and then, with some show of disappointment, said to himself: "Pshaw! His office is down in the Grand Central station, three miles away. Well, next time I'm over that way I'll stop." Then he called for his stenographer and dictated a letter telling Howard that he had enjoyed his visit with Ferguson immensely.

Two weeks afterward Ferguson received further documents from Pocatello.

“The matter you were examining into,” Howard wrote, “turns out to be a pretty good thing, and I'd advise you to hang on to it. I'll keep you posted on developments. I'll not let them fool you. By the way, what do you think of Walker? You haven't told me.”

“Thunder and lightning!” Ferguson uttered, “I ought to have called on Howard's friend a month ago. Here he is doing me all kinds of good turns out there in Pocatello and I haven't gratitude enough to go and meet the man he asked me to.” He would have rushed out forthwith to commune with Walker, only he saw that the directory located the man away off on the North Side.

“I'll take that letter around to him next week,” said Ferguson.

He did not, however. He promptly forgot all about Walker until a fortnight passed and information came from Pocatello that “the property is up 20 per cent in value. Give my respects to Walker the next time you see him.”

“Next time I see him,” Ferguson repeated. “Let's see. Did I say I had already met him? I guess I must have told Howard something like that. Well, I'll have to lie it out on that line if it takes all summer.” So he answered Howard's letter by saying that he and Walker had together seen a play the night before and had had a most enormously good time. He even repeated some anecdotes of Howard's earlier life which he declared Walker had told him. “I'd like to know whether Walker is married or single,” Ferguson thought. “I've got a bully story I could tell about him if I only knew. Doggone him! I wish I didn't have that letter of introduction to him. He's getting to be a kind of nuisance.”

About the same time Walker, writing to Howard, was saying how much he was indebted to the western man for the pleasure he had drawn from his companionship with Ferguson.

“Only I wish to heaven Harry hadn't been so fervent in his desire to have me meet the fellow,” he observed to himself. “I suppose that, as he says, this man Ferguson is all right, but I haven't time to go skating all over this town looking him up. I presume I ought to have gone and dug him out for Harry's sake a long time ago, but I keep forgetting it, and now I've involved myself in a foolish mesh of lies about my experiences with Ferguson, whom I have not met, and whom, to tell the truth, I'm getting so I don't want to meet.”

Out in Pocatello Harry Howard was delighted with the tidings he received from Chicago. “It's a great satisfaction,” he told himself, “to bring two good men together this way. It's really a noteworthy thing to be the author of a firm friendship between two first class people. Only I hardly think I understand this last letter of Ferguson's. I thought Walker had only two children, and here Ferguson writes me about his little girl. She must have been born in the last year. There were certainly only two boys when I passed through Chicago last summer. I'll send Ben my congratulations.”

When Walker received the sheet conveying honest Harry Howard's good wishes for the best and brightest future for little Miss Walker, he ran his fingers through his hair and looked dazed. “When did I say anything about a new baby?” he wondered. “I must have written him some lie about that fellow Ferguson's child. I think I have described the man's wife and children and father in-law and the mortgage on his house in my communications with Howard. Harry's always asking new questions, and the chances are that Ferguson has no family, and Howard thinks it was a slip of the pen and that I wrote about my own new baby—which I haven't got. Heavens, I wish this business had never started! I wish I'd never promised to call on Ferguson. I wish Ferguson would get run over by a cable car or come to some definite and permanent end. I'm getting to hate the very name of him. I'll bet he's a cheap skate anyhow who has imposed upon Howard's good nature. Why should I go drilling three miles into town just to meet him and say: ‘How are you? I know a friend of yours.’ I shan't do it.”

Ferguson had already come to a similar conclusion. “Howard's a first class llow, and he made things mighty easant for me in Pocat llo," he reaned, "and it would have been no more ian white for me to call on that friend ' his at first, but I've got so blamed red of the very mention of the name iat it fills me with loathing. I believe iat if I were to meet that pirate of a 'alker I'd want to throw bricks at him. thought the first lie I told about him ould let me out, but the falsehoods ive multiplied upon themselves until don't remember half the facts I have ported concerning that outlaw whom have never seen."

Two weeks ago Ferguson and Walker et. Ferguson, entering the library of is club, was accosted by a fellow member, who introduced his visiting friend, Valker. The two glared at each other, id Ferguson hurried into the billiard oom.

"I have changed my mind about preenting an application for memberiip," said Walker to the man who was scorting him. The next day Ferguson iet the member who had introduced Valker and said, "I'm sorry, old man, ut if it is your intention to offer that ellow's name for membership I'll certainly do my best to get him blackalled."

And this was the consummation of Iarry Howard's kindly designs of reiving Damon and Pythias.—Chicago Record.

Spain and a Conquered Race.

The idea of conquered races enjoying he most minute liberty of action by natural birthright was regarded in Spain s absurd. Little by little pressure was rought to bear on the king and his ounselors, producing a gradual relaxaion of the fetters which bound the new ubjects to their forced allegiance. Trade, created by the Spaniards, which inally extended to half castes, was conined exclusively to commerce with Spain. Both in the far east and the far west the exact size and number of packages shipped, the number of voyages per annum to and fro of the Naos (government trading galleons), contents of bales, etc., were all regulated, and no one could ship without a boleto or public permit, which could only be obtained from the unscrupulous officials who had come to fill their pockets by the most corrupt means. Permission had to be solicited again and again to perform almost any act beyond the common necessities of life. One could neither travel, quit or enter the country, read, write, assemble in a group, build a house nor plant a field without license

In the Philippine islands the natives were forced to think like their masters, to dress as they were told and to adopt the religion of their conquerors under the severest penalties of torture and frequently of death. In Mexico official appointments to the Manilla dependency were publicly sold. Until the American colonies were lost to Spain hardly one Spaniard in a generation carried capital to these new possessions to develop their natural resources. Foreigners were jealously treated as intruders, and the European influx sprang generally from the lowest social orders, who acted like wolves let loose among a fold of sheep. —Westminster Review.

Columbus and the Timid Sailor.

It was on the forty-seventh day out when some of the crew began to murmur, and one of them, more outspoken than the rest, walking into Columbus' cabin, implored him not to go farther.

"Why?" asked Columbus. "What's the use of turning back, now that we're nearly half way there?"

"We are afraid we'll never get back," said the sailor. "You'll lose your way before long."

"Not at all," said Columbus, pointing through the stern window of his ship. "We can't lose ourselves. Do you see the wake of this ship?"

"Yes," said the sailor, "I see. It's my own wake I'm thinking of, your honor."

"Well, never fear," said Columbus calmly. "When we decide to return, all we have to do is to follow that wake back to Gibraltar, and from there the way is easy."

The sailor departed satisfied.—Harper's Bazar.

When the Duke of Monmouth was executed in the reign of James II for treason, his duchess ordered every oak in the park to be cut on the fateful morning. The new growth, belonging to Lord Ebury, is one of the finest forests in Britain.

ENGAGED!

SHE.

She lingers still in the driving mist,
Striving to keep his shadow in sight.
There's a tremulous smile on the lips he has kissed.
In her eyes shines a new sweet light,
And the sodden landscape fades away.
A shining path spreads before her feet.
Love's deathless domain she has entered today,
And, oh, to be living is sweet!

HE.

He, hurrying off to catch the train,
Hopes that his people will like the match.
What a lucky girl such a husband to gain,
For she wasn't much of a catch.
Well, the deed is done; the victim must pay.
How much did that dress cost she wore tonight?
She should make her own; there's a saving that way.
Once married, he'll set all such things right
—E. D. Pierson in New York Sun.

LOST HIS BEARD.

"Rezonville! Gravelotte! Montretout! What a long time ago it all seems—half a lifetime, monsieur!" said my old friend Philipe Alibert, the ex-dragoon, as we stood before Brisset's picture in the salon of 1894. "Yes, that is Gravelotte—I was there. Is the picture like it? Oh, no doubt! The artist knows—I cannot tell. I had to fight, not look about.

"You want an anecdote of our troop, monsieur? Well, you shall have one. You may take it that we were picked men. There was but one youngster among us, and to us old mustaches his beardless face seemed strange. Ah, he was handsome, with the beauty du diable, fairly tall and very slim. He had a caustic tongue, and nothing pleased him better than to use it on us, his comrades, in such a manner that we feared him and left him to himself. How it was we could not tell, but Leon St. Paul carried everything before him. Did one of us offer attention to a pretty grisette merely pour passer le temps, Leon would cut him out and cover him in his retreat with confusion. This, in truth, was bad enough when the intent was merely to amuse oneself, but, sacre, it is hard to bear when a man was in earnest, as poor Cambert was with Mam'selle Marie Emmanuel, the vivandiere.

"A good creature, that Marie. We were devoted to her to a man, but sl reserved her smiles for Leon, and, if must say what I think, the inmost r cesses of her heart for monsieur le do teur.

"Poor Marie! M. Vendome thougl nothing of her.

"Cambert hated Leon and would o ten say while stroking his thick, blac beard: 'This young cockerel crows tc loud, messieurs. We must cut his com for him.'

"'There are plenty of Prussian comt for cutting, Corporal Cambert,' our sei geant would reply. 'Let us carve them my friend, before we practice on eac other. Who knows?' he added thought fully on one occasion. 'The time ma come when we shall none of us hav the heart for crowing.'

"Ah, well, the campaign was in it infancy then, and France, like a brid who decks herself for her nuptials, ha gone out to espouse the god of war, lit tle dreaming what the children of he marriage bed would be. But to my story, monsieur. It was the eve o Gravelotte, and Cambert, moody a usual, came across Leon trifling witl Marie, the vivandiere. He found hei smiling into the youth's handsome, beardless face, and in a burst of sarcasm unusual with him—for monsieui will understand that he had no great command of language except for cursing—he said to her, 'Mam'selle Marie Emmanuel, if you would have us continue to be your slaves, at least give us a man for a rival.'

"Leon's face turned scarlet. 'Man or boy,' he answered, 'I will wager my silver rosary, blessed by the holy father himself, against that beard of yours, of which you think so much, that I ride before you into the fight when next we charge the Prussians.'

"'Agreed!' replied Cambert lightly. 'Have the goodness to accept my assurance mademoiselle, that I shall present you with a silver rosary in a little time.'

"'Marie shall have the rosary, but she shall also have your beard to stuff a pillow for her favorite poodle,' answered Leon, and then, looking daggers at each other, they parted.

"The morrow was the day of Gravelotte, and we heard that we were to charge the blue tunics and drive them out of the plantation of hop vines behind which they lay concealed.

"'Ah, this is work for men,' grunted Cambert, as he looked to the left, on which side rode Leon, with myself next in line.

"'Look to your beard, Cambert,' answered Leon, laughing scornfully. 'You will never carry it into another fight.'

"The word was given, and off we went. Tell you about it? What shall I say? Only that the air was thick with a mist which smelled of sulphur and that a swarm of bees from hell itself seemed buzzing round our ears.

"Ping! We were not half way across the space which intervened between our starting point and those green rows of hop vines, each one masking a blue coated Prussian, when I got it! My right arm was stung by one of those bees and the bone shattered. I transferred my saber to my left hand and let my reins fall on the neck of my gray mare. On she went, her head down, her neck stretched out, her nose to the ground.

"'God of war!' I said to myself. 'Had it only been my left arm some Prussian should pay for this!' I was thinking of myself, of course, for it is not good or agreeable to charge Prussians with one arm useless, but I saw what passed near me—I saw very well, though the gray mist seemed turning red.

"Young Leon was the next. A bullet struck him below the breast just above the belt, a little to the side—a disagreeable spot that! Strike yourself with your fist, monsieur, so— just there, and you will know what I mean. I heard him groan 'O Jesu!' and saw him throw out both his hands into the air, Then I knew what had happened.

"In another instant he would fall backward over his horse's haunches and lie on the ground with a Prussian bullet in his internals and his comrades' horses trampling the beauty in his young face. On I went, the blood trickling down on to my saddle, my teeth gritting together and a pretty strong resolve in my soul to see some Prussian fluid very soon.

"'Holy Virgin!' Jean Joseph Cambert's voice reached me through the screaming and the hissing of the bullets. He was speaking grimly. 'Courage, comrade,' he said; 'you win your wager, for you ride before me toward the enemy's line.' And, monsieur, it was so! Leon St. Paul had been caught as he fell, and lay across the saddle of his rival, supported by his left arm.

"What followed then? You must picture it for yourself, for I cannot. Some of us never reached the hop vines, some never returned, but those who left us had Prussian comrades on their journey to the other world, be sure of that. Ah, ha, on that journey a good soldier of France is comforted by the presence of a detested Prussian, though in life no road is broad enough for them to travel amicably.

"When it was over we returned, and we three, Cambert, St. Paul and I, were still together.

"Cambert bore St. Paul to the place where M. Vendome and Marie Emmanuel were at work. They were both covered with blood and sweat. The surgeon groaned as we brought the youth in, for, as I have said, he loved St. Paul, but Marie uttered a cry which was hard on Cambert and made him look more grim than ever.

"I was in very great haste to part company with my right arm, but I stood aside to give young Leon his chance. A right arm is a good friend and sticketh closer than a brother. But even the best friend is sometimes de trop.

"The surgeon ripped the garments up with his scissors and tore them from the wound, disclosing the white flesh of the patient's body, but just then Leon roused and tried to drag himself on to his side, away from the healer's hand, muttering something that seemed to imply that, exclusive to the last, he would not be touched or handled in our presence.

"The surgeon drew back irresolute, which was indeed strange with moments so precious and gaping wounds waiting for him on every side.

"Then it was that the vivandiere spoke, turning to those who stood within the door of the hut, moved by such curiosity as men can feel who are used to scenes of blood.

"'Go, go, my friends,' she said; 'monsieur must find that bullet, and this is no place for you. You all have had mothers, women of France, sisters, some of you wives or sweethearts.

Retire, I beg. If I come to the door of the hut and say, 'My friends, it is the death'—here her strong voice broke—'then pray—pray for the soul of a brave daughter of France.'

"We who had called the young soldier comrade and loved or hated him for his smiling, handsome face cast a strange look upon the silent figure under the doctor's hands. We saw with opened eyes and every head was bare in an instant, for patriotism and the courage which God himself gives sometimes to his weakest commanded our respect as no other earthly attribute might.

"The doctor, with a gasping sob, turned to us as we drew toward the door of the hut. 'I loved the youth,' he said. 'I find that I have loved our sister. It is well that you should go—she wishes it—but courage, my brothers, the time has not yet come to say of our brave comrade in arms—may the soul of the faithful departed rest in peace.'

"Well, monsieur, my arm was taken off and I did well enough. They extracted that bullet from young Leon's body, and the doctor kept it. A bit of German lead, of course, but made precious by a countrywoman's blood. They moved us to the house of a wealthy patriot, and she lay in the temporary ward among the men, but separated by a screen. My bed was next to it.

"Cambert came to visit us, clean shaven, and not half so fierce and grim without his mustache. When he left, he was weeping like a child.

"One day I heard Marie Emmanuel talking to the patient behind the screen, and then I heard the voice of Leontine St. Paul.

"'How shall I face my comrades,' she said; 'how meet them, now I no longer dare to wear the dress in which they knew me?'

"And the vivandiere answered: 'Meet them, dear friend, as the wife of our brave surgeon. He loves you—I have said it. Surely such women as you were meant to be the mothers of our future heroes.'"

"And what became of Cambert?" I demanded.

"Oh, he married," said the old soldier. "He has sons and daughters. Perhaps he married Marie Emmanuel. I have seen his daughter. She is very like Marie."—Cora Langlois in New York Journal.

Must Have Been a Loose Screw.

For several minutes the young man did not speak. His heart was too full. It was enough for him to know that this glorious creature loved him; that she had promised to share his fate. With a new and delightful sense of ownership he feasted his eyes once more upon her beauty, and as he realized that henceforth it would be his privilege to provide for her welfare and happiness he could have almost wept with joy. His good fortune seemed incredible. Finally he whispered tenderly:

"How did it ever happen, darling, that such a bright, shining angel as yourself fell in love with a dull, stupid fellow like me?"

"Goodness knows," she murmured absently. "I must have a screw loose somewhere."—Pearson's Weekly.

They Called Him Vanus.

It is curious how inconsistent are the prejudices of people in regard to the use of heathen names. Mr. Payn, in his "Gleams of Memory," tells an amusing story of the late Dean Burgon, who objected to the name of the goddess of beauty, but found no fault with that of the god of the woods.

An infant was brought to the church for christening, and the name proposed for it was Vanus. "Vanus?" repeated the dean. "I suppose you mean Venus. Do you imagine I am going to call a Christian child by that name, and least of all a male child?"

The father of the infant urged that he only wished to name it after his grandfather. "Your grandfather!" cried the dean. "I don't believe it. Where is your grandfather?" He was produced—a poor old soul of 80 or so, bent double and certainly not looking in the least like the goddess in question. "Do you mean to tell me, sir, that any clergyman ever christened you 'Vanus,' as you call it?"

"Well, no, sir. I was christened Sylvanus, but they always calls me 'Vanus.'"

A Japanese saying runs: A woman's tongue is only six inches long, but it can kill a man six feet high.

Manifold.

Cutter—What's the old man with the whiskers writing?

Penman—Oh, he's getting out some syndicate stuff.

"He's not writing for the papers?"

"Oh, no. He's a Mormon, and he's writing home to his wives."—Yonkers Statesman.

Potatoes In the Pulpit.

A clergyman who enjoyed the substantial benefits of a fine farm was slightly taken down on one occasion by his Irish plowman, who was sitting on his plow in the wheatfield. The reverend gentleman, being an economist, said, with great seriousness:

"John, wouldn't it be a good plan for you to have a pair of pruning shears here and be cutting a few bushes along the fence while the horses are resting a short time?"

John, with quite as serious a countenance as the divine himself, said:

"Look here, wouldn't it be well, sir. for you to have a tub of potatoes in the pulpit, and while they were singing to peel 'em awhile to be ready for the pot?"

The reverend gentleman laughed heartily and left.—Pearson's Weekly.

Why He Objected.

The maiden was weeping bitterly. The young man stood opposite her with flushed cheeks and a troubled look on his face.

"Then your father has not waited for me to ask for his consent, but has conveyed his refusal through you?"

"Yes, Algy dear." (Sob.)

"And you think there is no chance of his relenting?"

"N-o-o."

"But, Lucy, darling, what does your father see in me to object to? Did he say?"

"He said, Algy, that he couldn't see anything in you (sob), and that was why he objected to you." (Sob.)—Pearson's Weekly.

A Convert of the Wheel.

"Pedalton used to be very fond of saying there is no such thing as perfection in life."

"Yes But that was before he bought his new bicycle."—Washington Star.

"He" Was a Woman.

A person admitted to an English workhouse not long ago objected to taking the usual bath with the men and confided to the medical officer that "he" was a woman. The woman's story, which she subsequently told, is stranger than fiction. She was educated at a woman's college and married at 16 to a man who ill treated her. She left him and went to live with a brother, who was a painter and decorator. Acquiring a knowledge of the trade, she donned male clothes and became a successful painter and decorator. For 22 years she lived with her niece, who kept house for her and posed as the painter's wife. Three months ago she fell from a scaffold, and, although she injured her ribs, managed to prevent the doctors from discovering her secret. A failure to obtain employment finally compelled her to seek the shelter of the workhouse, with consequences disastrous to her manhood.—New York Tribune.

Stevenson and His Nurse.

Alison Cunningham, Robert Louis Stevenson's old nurse, was much beloved by him, and he sent her a copy of each of his books, with his own inscription on the fly leaf. Generally the inscription is just a line or two, "Alison Cunningham, from her boy," or "from her laddie." But one of the volumes, "An Inland Voyage" (1878), contains the following:

> My Dear Cunning—If you had not taken so much trouble with me all the years of my childhood, this little book would never have been written. Many a long night you sat up with me when I was ill. I wish I could hope, by way of return, to amuse a single evening for you with my little book. But, whatever you may think of it, I know you will continue to think kindly of the author.

A Story of Whittier.

Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer tells a story illustrating the almost boyish modesty of the poet Whittier. A little woman forced her way into the penetralia of a Boston mansion when Whittier was visiting there and, clasping both the poet's hands in her own, exclaimed, "Mr. Whittier, this is the supreme moment of my life!" Whittier stood first on one foot and then on the other, withdrew his hands and clasped them behind his back and replied prosaically, "Is it?"

Sending Bedclothes by Mail.

An old negro bearing a huge bundle of bedclothes which were somewhat the worse for wear and none too immaculate in character rapped at one of the little windows up at the postoffice. The clerk who appeared in answer to the summons was thus greeted by the aforesaid darky:

"Boss, I'ze got tu send dis here bundle o' bedclo'es to my old 'oman down in Mis'sippi. Is dis here de place whah I'ze got ter start it off?"

"Oh, you want to send the package by mail, do you?" asked the clerk, without cracking a smile.

"Sartain, fer sho', boss. How much is I got ter pay?" inquired the darky.

The clerk could not resist the temptation to play a joke upon a fellow clerk, so he said:

"Well, uncle, this isn't the place for you to leave your bundle, but if you will just take it down to that window below here"—indicating the general delivery department—"and hand it in to the clerk down there, he will put the right number of stamps on it and send it off for you."

"Thanke'ee, boss; thank'ee. I sho' is obleeged ter you," said the unsuspecting Senegambian.

He at once made his way to the department indicated. Arriving there, he thrust his huge bundle into the window, into which it fitted closely, at the same time telling the astonished presiding genius of that department please to put stamps on it and sent it to "my old 'oman, Sallie Sanders, down in Water Valley."

It is said that a coolness now exists between these erstwhile friendly clerks in the Memphis postoffice.—Memphis Scimitar.

Antetobacco Smoking.

There is ample authority for the statement that before the introduction of tobacco it was customary to inhale the smoke of burned herbs for medicinal purposes. There is, however, so far as I know, no authority for supposing that pipes at all resembling our tobacco pipes were used for this purpose. Lyte says of coltsfoot:

"The perfume of the dried leaves ledde upon quicke coles, taken into the mouth through the pipe of a funnell or tunnell, helpeth such as are trouble with the shortnesse of winde, and fetch their breath thicke or often, and do (sic breake without daunger the impostem of the breast."

This is the usual form of the directions given in such cases, and Gerar follows it almost word for word, adding, however:

"Being taken in manner as they tak tobaco, it (coltsfoot) mightily prevaileth against the disease aforesaid."

This is pretty good evidence that tobacco pipes were not in use in Lyte' time, but had been introduced in Gerard's. In Sylvester's "Tobacco Battered and Their Pipes Shattered" tobacc pipes are spoken of as a new invention

Two smoakie Engines, in this latter Age
(Satan's short Circuit, the more sharp his rage
Have been invented by too-wanted Wit,
Or rather, vented from th' Infernall Pit,
Guns and Tobacco-pipes, with Fire and Smoak
(At least) a Third part of Mankind to choak.

He considers the later invention th more devilish of the two.—Notes an Queries.

A Rainfall of Seeds.

Some days ago the province of Macerata, in Italy, was the scene of an extraordinary phenomenon. Half an hou before sunset an immense number o small blood colored clouds covered th sky. About an hour later a cyclon storm burst, and immediately the ai became filled with myriads of smal seeds. The seeds fell over town an country, covering the ground to a depth of about half an inch. The next day th whole of the scientists of Macerata wer abroad in order to find some explanation.

Professor Cardinali, a celebrated Italian naturalist, stated that the seeds were of the genus cercis, commonly called Judas tree, and that they belonged to an order of leguminossæ found only in central Africa or the Antilles. It was found, upon examination, that a great number of the seeds were actually in the first stage of germination.—Golden Penny.

Mother. Sometimes.

"The child," said the shoe clerk boarder, "is father to the man."

"Oh, not always," said the cheerful idiot. "Sometimes it is a girl."—Indianapolis Journal.

Sold the Machine.

The book agent, the sewing machine agent, the insurance agent, have each and all won distinction by their perseverance, but the agent of the washing machine is worth his weight in gold to the house for which he travels if all there s said about him in the following is rue:

Exasperated Woman of the House—I have told you a dozen times I don't want the machine. Sic him, Tige!

Agent (while the dog is gnawing his eg)—Don't want the machine, ma'am? Pardon me, you haven't yet seen half ts good points. It washes the clothes cleaner than any other and in less than half the time. It never tears off a but-on. It''—

"Good heavens! Don't you see what he dog is doing?''

"Yes, quite a playful animal. This machine, ma'am, uses less soap, takes up less room''—

"He'll tear you to pieces if you don't go. Run, for mercy's sake. He's tasted blood, and I'm afraid I can't stop him now.''

"I have to put up with such things, ma'am, and it's a good cause. This machine is the best one that ever was invented. If I can succeed in introducing one into a family, I always feel that I have done a benevolent act. You can use any kind of water, hard or soft, hot or''—

"Oh, no, no! He'll kill you. What is the machine worth?''

"It's worth $1,000,000 to any family, but I'm selling it for only $5, and''—

"Here's your money. I'll take it. Tige, Tige! Let go!''

"Looks as if we were going to have rain. Well, I must be going. Good afternoon, ma'am.'' — Sewing Machine Times.

The New England Meeting House.

The New England meeting house was generally a square wooden box, but it showed excellent taste in the detail of its simple ornamentation. It is the theory of some thoughtful architects that among the early colonial immigrants were men considerably above the ability of ordinary carpenters. In those days the architect was apt to be both designer and builder, and it was not in this country until very modern times that the line was at all clearly drawn between the architect who designed and superintended in the interests of his client, and so became a professional man, and the builder who took a contract to execute the work and make what he could out of it, and remained a business man. It is believed that the excellent taste and judgment of these men among the colonists made themselves felt in the taste of the ornamentation in what we call colonial architecture. They had no originality in the general design of buildings, because their experience had never included that, but they knew how to carry out to perfection details of the ensemble. — William B. Bigelow in Scribner's.

The Troubles of Ireland.

On one occasion Hartley Coleridge had listened with deep apparent interest to the voluble discourse of a well known Irish enthusiast who spent much of his time traveling about England and enlightening the English mind on the subject of popish errors, especially in Ireland. After dinner Hartley requested to be presented to a man so remarkable. On the presentation he took the far famed traveler and philosopher by the arm, while a few of the guests gathered around, and addressed him with awful solemnity, "Sir, there are two great evils in Ireland.'' "There are indeed, sir,'' replied the Irish guest, "but please to name them.'' "The first,'' resumed Hartley, "is—popery!'' "It is,'' said the other, "but how wonderful that you should have discovered that! Now tell me what is the second great evil.'' "Protestantism!'' was Hartley's reply in a voice of thunder as he ran away screaming with laughter. His new acquaintance remained panic stricken.—"Recollections of Aubrey de Vere.''

Its Great Charm.

"Yes, we went all over Europe, but papa really only enjoyed himself in Venice.''

"Ah, yes, no wonder. The gondolas, St. Mark's, the Rialto, the''—

"Oh, it wasn't that. But he could sit in the hotel, you know, and fish out of the window.''—London Fun.

Old Settlers' Yarns.

They were two old pioneers of upper Michigan entertaining the gullible resorters.

"When I first came to this region," said the veteran who owns a log cabin, a flatboat and a turnip patch, "we had a good deal of trouble with bears. They'd come sniffin round the shanty at night, and you could go out any mornin and lay in a stock of bear beef. 'Bout the best luck I ever had was one fall when I was pokin about just beyant the clearin. I was shovin a bullet home with an iron ramrod when I see a she bear and three cubs comin toward me. They see me at the same time, and all went up in a row on their hind legs. Of course I was naturally excited and banged away. When the smoke cleared there was them four bears strung on that ramrod, and there wasn't a good kick left in none of 'em."

The other entertainer looked troubled for a few seconds, but soon rallied and looked as honest as an owl.

"Hank," he began, "you mus' recaleck that red cow of mine. There was the beatinest critter I ever see. She could ketch more fish than airy a man in the settlement. She wasn't no expense 'cause she could steal a livin the year round. She could pick a lock with her horns, and ole Jim Clayter swears he see her climb a tree after a black bear once. I won't make no affidavy to that, but I know she used to bring in bear reg'ler. She could do more with them horns of hern than any man could with a rifle. Wasn't she a corker, Hank?"

"I hain't spinnin this here yarn, Lige," declared the other pioneer, who was plainly jealous, "but the only cow you ever owned since you come up here was a mooley."

Though they are both old they are as tough as pine knots, and it took five minutes to part them. The friendship of years is broken and each declares the other the prince of liars.—Detroit Free Press.

Altitude and Phthisis.

I have spent considerable time in traveling in the Catskills, Adirondacks and the Rocky mountains, investigating with some care these localities, with their varying altitudes above sea level and their influence upon the lungs, and while perhaps a high and dry and lighter air may be beneficial in some diseases and for its influence upon the general health, I do not believe that it has the slightest effect upon the growth an proliferation of the tubercle bacillus itself. In this opinion I am heartily confirmed by the judgment of many able and careful practitioners with whom I have most earnestly conversed, and I repeat that altitude has no influence whatever in destroying the tubercle bacillus.

A considerable experience with this disease has led me to believe that no place is better for its treatment than New York city. Patients have come to me from every state in the Union, from Canada, from the Sandwich Islands and from Europe, and it appears to be the general belief among them all that the climate of New York city, with its clear air and bright sunshine, is quite as favorable under all circumstances as is that of most other localities. I have under my care at this time patients from several towns in Colorado, from New Mexico and California, and all are doing better in this city than in their own localities.—Dr. Hubbard Winslow Mitchell in New York Medical Record.

Leprosy.

Leprosy is an exclusively human disease. It is not inoculable to animals. It is never of spontaneous origin, but is invariably derived from the lesions or secretions of a person similarly diseased. Its development in a country previously exempt from the disease may always be traced to its importation in the person of a leper from an infected center. We know nothing definitely of the mode of infection or the channels of entrance through which the bacillus gains access to the organism—whether by direct contact, by inhalation or imbibition of the germs or by other intermediaries. Observation proves conclusively that every leper is a possible source of danger to all with whom he may come into intimate and prolonged contact.—Dr. Prince A. Morrow in North American Review.

Experts have come to the conclusion that what kills trees in London is not the soot flakes nor the want of air nor the drought, but the sewer gas, which attacks the roots, so that the tree soon withers and dies.

THE CIVIL WAR.

Some Facts For Folks Who Are Not Sure When It Ended.

Many people think Appomattox marked the end of the war, as Sumter did its beginning. As a matter of fact the war did not end officially until Aug. 20, 1866, when President Johnson issued a proclamation announcing that war was at an end and that peace, order and tranquillity and civil authority existed in all the states. While Lee's surrender was not the end of the war, it was the beginning of the end. Johnston surrendered on April 26, Dick Taylor on May 4 and Kirby Smith not until May 26. On May 13, more than a month after Lee's surrender, a sharp fight took place at Palmetto Ranch, in Texas, which is called by Jefferson Davis and other authorities the last battle of the war. The commander of the Union troops, mostly colored, says in his report:

"The last volley of the war, it is believed, was fired by the Sixty-second United States Colored infantry, about sunset on May 13, 1865, between White's ranch and the Boca Chica, Texas." In this fight, which took place on the American side of the Rio Grande river, the Mexican Imperialists sent over a body of cavalry, which aided the Confederates in their last and successful attack. On June 13 Tennessee was declared at peace; June 23 the blockade was raised; July 22 Grant made his last official report; April 2, 1866, proclamation that Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Florida were tranquil was issued by the president; Aug. 20, 1866, war was officially declared ended. The latter date was in 1867 fixed by congress as the official and legal date of the close of the war.—New York World.

Picked Him Out.

A teacher was introducing a lesson on "A Flint Stone" by a few remarks upon the primitive savage. After detailing many characteristics he wound up with:

"He was very rough, using no knife or fork, but eating with his fingers. Now, who was this?"

Johnny—Please, sir, our lodger, sir."—London Tit-Bits.

The Human Body.

The human body is an epitome in nature of all mechanics, all hydraulics, all architecture, all machinery of every kind. There are more than 310 mechanical movements known to mechanics today, and all of these are but modifications of those found in the human body Here are found all the bars, levers, joints, pulleys, pumps, pipes, wheels and axles, ball and socket movements, beams, girders, trusses, buffers, arches, columns, cables and supports known to science. At every point man's best mechanical work can be shown to be but adaptations of processes of the human body, a revelation of first principles used in nature.

Not His Luck.

Mrs. Peck—Here's another case of a man who forgot to appear on his wedding day.

Henri Peck—And yet they call absentmindedness a misfortune.—Philadelphia North American.

Honey and Beeswax Market Report.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 20, 1897.—The demand for honey is fair. Good supply. Price of comb 10 to 11½c per lb. Extracted 4½ to 6c per lb. Good demand for Beeswax. No supply. Prices 25 to 27c per lb. Very little extracted honey on the market'

Hamblin & Bearss, 514 Walnut St.

Detroit, Mich.. Dec. 26, 1897.—Fair demand for honey. Good Supply. Price of white 11 to 12c per lb. Other grades 8 to 11c. Extracted light 5 to 6c; dark 4 to 5c per lb. Good demand for beeswax. Fair supply. Price 25 to 26c per lb. The failure of the apple crop here has helped the sales of honey very much.

M. H. Hunt, Bell Branch. Mich.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 20, 1897.—Good demand for honey. Fair supply. Price of comb, fancy 13c; No. 1, 11 to 12c. Extracted 6 to 7c per lb. Good demand for beeswax, practically no supply. Price 27c per lb.

Blake, Scott & Lee, 57 Chatham St.

Cincinnati, O.. Dec. 23.1897.—There is no change in prices, and demand is rather slow on account of the holiday season. We quote 10 to 14c as the range of price for best white comb honey and 3½ to 6c for extracted honey, according to quality. Demand is fair for beeswax at 20 to 26c for good to choice yellow. Supply fair

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Fill a bottle or common glass with urine and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate or pain in the back, is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

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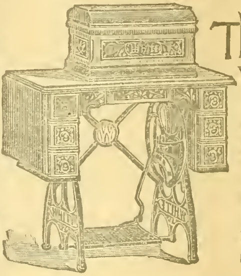

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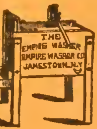

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Cuba, Kan., Jan. 27, '97.

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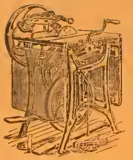

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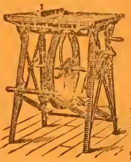

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Vol. VIII. FEBRUARY, 1898. No. 2.

Some of the Duties of an Apiarist.

Written for The American Bee-Keeper,

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Mr. Editor—Allow me to give the eaders of the American Bee Keeper ome of the duties of an apiarist, as I onsider them. During the winter and arly spring, if a chance occurs that he colonies which are wintered on heir summer stands can fly, the apiarist should see that the entrance to the ive is not clogged with dead bees or ny obstruction to confine them to the ive, as these winter flights are very eneficial. If those wintered in the ellar are quiet, and can be kept so, hey should remain where they are till hose colonies which are out on their ummer stands commence to bring in ollen from the first opening flowers. therwise it may be well to set them ut for a fly during March, if a warm ay occurs. When pollen becomes lenty, examine the bees by lifting the rame of each hive, and if the colonies re weak the bees should be shut to ne side of the hive by means of a division board, so as to keep up the necssary heat for brood rearing, using nly the combs containing brood and ne of honey in the part where the ees are. A queen will lay about 700,000 eggs during her lifetime and usually lives from three to four years, but nder the present system of management we coax the queen to lay all of hese eggs in two or three years. Of course, the readers of the American Bee Keeper all know that bees gather honey, not make it, and that the eggs laid by the queen produce bees; consequently the more eggs the queen lays the more bees we get, and the more bees we have the more honey they gather. Therefore it will be seen that under our coaxing process we get as much honey from a colony now in one year as was gotten forty or fifty years ago in two. As soon as the queen, with her eggs, has filled the combs that was given her when contracting the hive, these are spread apart and an empty comb, or one filled with honey, if the bees are short of honey, is inserted between those occupied with brood, when in a few days' time the queen will fill this also, and so we keep on till every available cell is occupied with brood or young bees. When this is accomplished the sections are put on, and it will be seen if any honey is gathered, it must be put in the boxes, as there is no room elsewhere to place it. Each section should have a small piece of clean, white comb or comb foundation attached to the top as a starter, so the bees will work more readily in the sections, and cause them to build their combs true in the same, while the center tier of sections should be full of comb left over from the previous year, if possible. As soon as the first ten to fifteen sections are filled they should be taken off while snow-white and startered sections put in their places, thereby causing the bees to work with renewed vigor to fill up the vacant space left where the full ones were taken out. In this way keep taking out full sections and putting empty ones in their places as long as the honey harvest lasts. Queens are to be kept constantly on hand. so that no colony is allowed to go queenless for any length of time from any cause. for the queen is. in fact. the producer of honey. as has been shown above. Store honey in a dry. warm room. in such a shape that it can be penetrated by the fumes of burning sulphur. should the larva of the wax moth be troublesome. and after it has sufficiently evaporated. crate it in nice twenty-pound crates for market. See that your bees have enough honey and are properly prepared for winter, and then you can look back over the year with pleasure. In short. do things at the right time and in the right place, leaving no "stone" unturned that will produce one pound more of honey. Don't forget to read The American Bee Keeper and other papers on bees. so as to keep posted on all of the improvements of the times and if you can add your mite of knowledge to these columns. don't be backward in doing so. And now I have kept till the last the most important item of the whole. which is that you should have a thorough knowledge of the locality in which you reside as to when its honey producing flora opens. Many bee-keepers do not seem to realize the importance of this. as their actions show, for if they did we should not so often hear of those who delayed putting on the surplus arrangement till the best part of the honey season was over. or of those who added the surplus room so early in the season that their colonies were greatly injured by allowing the heat which is so necessary for brood rearing in the early part of the season. to escape into the upper story. All work with the bees, to be successfully done, should be done with an eye open to the probable time of the blossoming of the main honey plants in our locality. For instance, if white clover is our main honey crop, we must commence operations with the bees at least six weeks previous to its blossoming in order to insure a good yield from it, for it takes at least six weeks to build up a colony so it will be able to do the best work on a given field of blossoms. Hence, as white clover blossoms in this latitude about June 16th, we must commence to get our bees ready for it as early as May 1st. By so doing we secure the bees in time for the harvest, which means success. But, supposing basswood, which opens July 5th to 12th, to be our main honey harvest, we having but little white clover, not more than enough to keep the bees breeding nicely, then the commencing to work for the bees for this harvest as early as the first of May would be labor thrown away, as well as a useless expenditure of honey used in producing bees to loaf around waiting for the harvest. What man is there having a field of wheat to cut, requiring the labor of twenty men to harvest the same, who hires these men two weeks previous to the time the grain is ripe? When shall we learn to use common sense in regard to bees as we do in other things? For a man to talk of getting his bees strong and ready to swarm in April by means of artificial heat in this latitude, as some have, shows a lack of good common sense on this point. Again, if our bees are weak in the spring and we do not get them ready for the harvest until after that harvest is over, they become merely consumers, instead of producers, or worse than useless. It would be like the man hiring his twenty men to harvest his wheat after it had become ripe and spoiled on the ground. Thus it will be seen that to be the most successful we must have a full force of bees just in the right time to take advantage of the harvest. In or-

r to do this we must study our lo-
lity and know the time our honey
oducing flowers open, and thus we
all gain a knowledge which will en-
le us to reap a rich harvest of honey.
hen honey is secreted in the flowers.
Borodino, N. Y.

Details in Extracting Honey.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,

BY W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

Editor American Bee Keeper—A cor-
spondent in your November number
ks for details in the work of ex-
cting honey.

He uses an eight-frame hive, and
ks how many frames he shall empty
one time supposing them all in the
me condition. Not much headway
n be made in the production of ex-
cted honey with an eight-frame
ve, unless it is used two or more
ries high.

About all of the combs of one eight-
me hive are needed for brood. One
two outside combs might be found
at would contain considerable honey,
d they could be run through the ex-
ctor with little or no damage to the
ood, if care is taken not to turn fast
ough to throw out any unsealed
ood. But this is a slow way of get-
g extracted honey. In a good honey
w these one or two outside combs
uld have to be emptied daily in or-
to give the bees room to store what
ney they could gather, and in many
tances a colony would need several
es this room. Not only this, but
ere would not be time to ripen the
ney. Use the eight-frame hives, two
more stories high, and they are all
ht for the production of extracted
ney. Put on a queen-excluding
ney board over the top of the lower
ry and thus confine the queen and
brood to the lower story. When
second story is full of honey, if it is
t capped over it may be raised up
d another story placed between it
d the lower story. By the time that
last added story is full of honey it
likely that the top one will have its
honey ripened and sealed over. If it isn't, I would add still another story, or, better still, put the upper story, bees and all, on some weak colony that has not yet an upper story. Three stories high is about as high as it is advisable to tier up full sized hives.

I would not extract until the honey is all sealed, or, at least, most of it is sealed. Perhaps this ought to be qualified a little. By this tiering-up process it often happens that the honey is really ripened before it is all sealed over. Judge of the matter by the thickness of the honey. If the honey is as thick as that of fully ripened honey that is sealed over, it is ripe enough to extract. One great trouble with the sale of extracted honey is that so many extract it before it is ripe and put it on the market in that condition. Experts may extract honey that is not fully ripe, and then ripen it by artificial means, but the ordinary bee-keeper does not do that way. Some good authorities assert that honey may be ripened artificially and be of just as fine flavor as that ripened by the bees. While it is possible that this is true, there is no doubt that the honey ripened by the bees is all right.

When the honey in the upper story is ripe, remove the cover and drive the bees down with smoke. Take the combs out rapidly before the bees come trooping back, and give each comb a sharp shake or two that will dislodge most of the bees. Brush off the rest of them with a quill from a turkey wing or something of this nature. When the combs are free from bees, hang them in an empty hive. If there are other empty combs, they may be at once put in the places of those that have been removed. Wired foundation is all right to put in the supers, but finished combs are better, especially when honey is coming in freely, as they are all ready to put honey into. A hive of combs can be wheeled or carried to the extracting room, the cappings shaved off and the honey extracted, and then the combs given to the next hive that is opened. This is supposing that only one man is at work, or that there is a limited number of combs on hand. If there are plenty of combs, the honey may all be removed and empty combs put in its place before the extracting is commenced. It is better, however, to extract the honey as soon as possible after it is off the hives, as it is then warm and extracts more easily than after it has cooled.

There is no need whatever of feeding after extracting. If the season is over, enough honey should be left in the hive for the wintering of the bees. It would be a waste of labor to extract the honey and then feed it back again. If honey is still coming in, there is no need of feeding.

The cappings should be placed in some vessel that has holes in its bottom. A pan or a pail of tin may be used, with a lot of holes punched in its bottom. Or a large can may be used with a false bottom of wire cloth to support the cappings while the honey drains off to the bottom of the can. After the cappings have thoroughly drained they may be washed and the water used in making vinegar. Then the cappings may be made into wax that will be of the clearest and finest imaginable. It is not necessary to strain the honey. Let it stand a few days, when all pieces of comb, etc., will rise to the top. This may be skimmed off and the honey drawn off into kegs tins or cans. Extracted honey ought not to be left exposed to the air, as it thereby loses its flavor and aroma.

Flint, Mich.

H. W. Brice, in B. B.-K. R., points out the lessons which past failures should teach and their value as a guide to future practice. Admonishes beginners against too-early handling of bees in the spring, and particularly against the indiscreet spreading of brood.

Seasonable Suggestions.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,

BY ED. JOLLEY.

While the work of the bee-keeper in winter is not attended with hustle and bustle of summer, yet the bee-keeper who would be ready for the spring work when it comes must not sit all winter with folded hands. Now is the time to get your new supplies ready for next season. And now is the best time to clean the propolis from your old supplies. You can scrape off more propolis now in one hour than you can in three in warmer weather. Now is the best time to render your old combs into wax. The weather being cold, the combs can be easily pulverized, which is a great help in separating the wax from the dirt. The pulverized combs should be put in a barrel containing two or three times as much water as broken combs. Stir occasionally for a day or two, and then dip the broken comb off the top and render them. The greater part of the dirt will have settled below the wax.

About this time of year, too, we have more or less anxiety as to whether our bees have stores enough to last them until more can be gathered. It is best not to disturb colonies that went into winter quarters with an abundance of stores until the warm weather of spring has opened up. But any colonies that we fear may not have enough we had better look them over any time that it is warm enough for the bees to fly out. Take the cushions off and lift the quilt and take a hasty look. If you think they will need feed, the best thing to do is to put three or four pounds of loaf sugar, slightly dampened, on the top of the frames; tuck them up good and warm and let them alone until it is warm enough to feed sugar syrup. This is cheaper and easier to give at this time of year than sugar syrup; safer than the candy that nine-tenths of the novices would make.

Apply castor oil to the projecting ends of brood frames, edges of closed end frames, following boards or anything that the bees are liable to glue together with propolis. When this is done the parts are always loose and may be easily taken out or moved.

I found this out by an accident instead of by an experiment. I had a box of Hoffman frames, in flat, in my shop. A can of castor oil was on the bench above the box of frames. It was accidentally overturned and the oil went into a box of frames. The next season I noticed that wherever the oil had touched the parts there was little or no propolis. And the little there was would peel off very readily. I have tried this now for three years with very satisfactory results.

Franklin, Pa.

OUR
EXTRACTOR

Locations Suited to the Keeping of Bees.

From Farmers' Bulletin, No. 59.

BY FRANK BENTON.

It may be safely said that any place where farming, gardening or fruit raising can be successfully followed is adapted to the profitable keeping of bees—in a limited way at least, if not extensively. Many of these localities will support extensive apiaries. In addition to this there are, within the borders of the United States, thousands of good locations for the apiarist—forest, prairie, swamp and mountain regions—where agriculture has as yet not gained a foothold, either because of remoteness from markets or the uninviting character of soil or climate. This pursuit may also be followed in or near towns and, to a limited extent, in large cities. It even happens in some instances that bees in cities or towns find more abundant pasturage than in country locations which are considered fair.

The city of Washington is an example of this, bees located here doing better during the spring and summer months than those in the surrounding country, owing to the bee pasturage found in the numerous gardens and parks and the nectar-yielding shade trees along the streets. This is due mainly to the fact that the linden, or basswood, which is rarely seen in the country about Washington, has been planted extensively in the parks and for miles on both sides of many of the streets and avenues in the city. Another source in the city not found extensively in the country adjacent is melilot, Bokhara or sweet clover (Melilotus alba), which has crept into vacant lots and neglected corners, and spreads about its agreeable perfume to the delight of all city dwellers, whether human or insect. The writer has practiced with profit the transportation of nearly 100 colonies from a country apiary ten miles distant to Washington for the linden and sweet clover yield. He has also seen a prosperous apiary kept on the roof of a business house in the heart of New York City, and on several occasions has visited another apiary of thirty to forty colonies, which a skillful apiarist had located on the roof of his store in the business portion of Cincinnati, O., and from which thirty to forty pounds of honey per colony were usually obtained each year.

Another apiary personally inspected was located directly on the sand banks forming the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. These bees were, of course, unable to forage westward from the apiary, hence had but half "a field." The soil of the area over which the bees ranged was a light sand, unproductive for most crops, and the region was little developed agriculturally, most of the honey coming from forest trees and from shrubs and wild plants growing in old burnings and windfalls, yet twenty-five to thirty pounds of excellent honey per colony was the usual surplus obtained. At one time the writer had an apiary in the city of Detroit, Mich., where the wide river on one side cut off nearly half of the pasturage, yet the bees did well. And again for several years he had an apiary containing from 100 to 200 colonies of bees on a very sterile coast of the Island of Cyprus, and another nearly as large located but a few rods from the seashore on a rocky point of Syria. Both of these apiaries were devoted in the main to queen rearing, yet the yield of honey was not an unimportant item, especially in the Syrian apiary, while in the Cyprus apiary some honey was frequently taken, and it was rarely necessary to feed the bees for store. In the latter case about one-fourth of the range was cut off by the sea, the bees being located at the head of an open bay and a short distance from the shore, while the location of the Syrian apiary prevented the bees from securing half of the usual range, hence their greater prosperity was due to the nature and quantity of the pasturage of their limited range.

It is evident, therefore, that no one similarly located need be deterred from keeping bees, provided the nectar-yielding trees and plants of the half range are of the right sort and abundant. Moreover, regions so rough and sterile or so swampy as to give no encouragement to the agriculturist, or even to the stock raiser, will often yield a good income to the bee-keeper, insignificant and apparently worthless herbs and shrubs furnishing forage for the bees. The ability of the bees to range over areas inaccessible to other farm stock and to draw their sustenance from dense forests when the timber is of the right kind, and the freedom which, because of their nature, must be accorded them to pasture on whatever natural sources are within their range of three or four miles, must be taken into account in estimating the possibilities of a locality. It will be found that very few localities exist in our country where at least a few colonies of bees may not be kept. Whethe a large number might be profitabl kept in a given locality can only b decided by a careful examination as t the honey-producing flora within rang of the apiary.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Dadant, in the A. B. J., says something over one pound of wax is obtained from the cappings of each 10 pounds of honey extracted. Our experience accords with the rule.

—o—

Australian Bee Bulletin.—"If you d not wish to increase your swarms, o to weaken your hives for the hone flow, place the swarm alongside th parent colony, cut out every queen cel in the parent colony, and in the evening place the swarm as a super on to of the parent colony."

—o—

J. G. Hurstville of Australia recentl by request, made a small shipment o honey to a friend in England, wh says they cannot get good honey there We predict that this item, from th Australian Bee Bulletin, will result i a general comparison of the relativ merits of Australian and Englis honey. What's the matter wit heather?

—o—

William McNally, in the British Bee Keepers' Record, favors the "new style" section, but would embody th "continuous passage" feature by using instead of the "fence," a separato without cleats, and having attached t it, by glue, small blocks, 3-16x3-8, o either side to take bearing against th corners of the sections when clampe in the super. This idea is in line wit the Aspinwall system, so clearly described and illustrated in the December Review. Mr. Aspinwall's arrangement certainly has the appearance o being perfection.

C. Davenport, in American Bee Journal.—"During the past few years great progress has been made in the science of producing honey; few if any other branches of agriculture have kept pace with us, but in one most important respect—the marketing of our product—we are not much farther advanced than were the bee-keepers of 50 or even 100 years ago." Why is it thus?

—o—

The conductor of the American Bee Journal's "Beedom Boiled Down" department dissects, sifts and in general handles European bee lore of all languages in a manner to excite envy. But Gleanings seems to have a monopoly of the new Chilean bee paper's productions—quotes, paraphrases and comments with apparent ease. Porque no hace V. eso, Sr. B. B. D.?

—o—

F. Greiner, in Gleanings, thinks the bee-space rather the most important part of Langstroth's invention, though he charges to its influence the loss of thousands of colonies in wintering. He believes, however, that wintering in modern hives has been reduced to a science, and that it today meets with greater success than the box-hives of this or past ages.

—o—

D. L. Tracy, in the Progessive Bee-Keeper, relates an experience with moths that's just a little ahead of anything that has come our way heretofore. He says: "In Iowa I have seen moths literally eat up a swarm that were like the Englishman's corpse, 'pretty dom'd lively.' There was no sickness and no languishing. There were 10,000 bees to the frame, and ten frames to the hive, yet the moths completely annihilated them."

—o—

As an illustration of the unaccountable peculiarities sometimes encountered in the management of bees, we note an instance as related in the biography of George S. Wheeler, in the American Bee Journal. He purchased an Italian queen of Kidder away back in the '60's. The next season about twenty queens were reared from this one and introduced to as many different colonies of blacks, and nearly every bee reared from these queens showed three bands, and were as well marked as the old queen, though when they took their flight the yard was full of black drones. The season following, when nearly every drone in the yard was Italian, he could hardly get a queen purely mated, the progeny being not only hybrid, but largely black.

—o—

L. A. Aspinwall, in the Bee-Keepers' Review, reviews the history of the section honey-box from the time of its appearance, some thirty years ago, to the present; noting each improvement and stage of its progress from the crudely constructed frame to the snow-white, polished section now turned out by millions in the large factories especially equipped for the purpose. He regards the introduction of the "new style," or plain section, an advance step. The following points of merit are noted by comparison with the in-set or projecting corner style: A saving of one-seventh in material, to the manufacturer, should result in a corresponding reduction in price. The consumer gets less wood and more honey when buying by weight; yet receives a more beautiful and artistic package for which he pays an advanced price. Owing to the decreased width of the section, a saving of 20 per cent. in shipping cases follows. The thorough and rapid work of cleaning by machinery is made possible and practical. The expense incurred by the change from the in-set to the plain style is also mentioned, though the advantages gained will soon compensate for the additional outlay, he thinks.

Please send us a list of your bee-keeping acquaintances, that we may forward sample copies to them.

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H. E. HILL, - - - Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

With this issue Mr. H. E. Hill assumes the editorial duties and responsibilities connected with this journal, and we have no doubt that the change will be an agreeable and welcome one to our subscribers, for Mr. Hill will devote the greater part of his time to it, and as he is a practical bee-keeper of wide experience as well as a very pleasant writer, no doubt the improvement of The American Bee Keeper will be very marked.

The former editor has never done either his readers or himself justice, for he has been at all times so engrossed in business matters that no time could be devoted to the affairs of The Bee Keeper excepting such as could be obtained by "burning the midnight oil." We hope the new editor will be encouraged by a good flow of subscriptions and new advertising, and we can assure our readers it is our aim to have this journal rank as one of the best.

Yours truly,
THE W. T. FALCONER MFG. CO.

In connection with The American Bee Keeper this issue marks the firs change that has occurred during it seven years of existence. The reason for the change in editorial managemen are fully explained by the publishers who have, without assistance, carried it far beyond that stage of questionabl stability through which so few of th apiarian journals have succeeded in passing. Whether the change wil prove for the better, or otherwise, tim alone can determine. We have only t say that if our success shall be in proportion to our desire to serve the interests of our readers and the bee-keeping industry in general, our greatest ambition will be gratified.

Gleanings comes to hand this month with a new set of specially designed department headings, cleverly executed appropriate and attractive.

We have received many letters from friends in Florida regarding the effec of the recent cold snap there; from which we learn that the damage to bee-keeping interests is very slight, i any.

Our feelings, just at present, place u in close and tender sympathy with the bewildered "scout," that returns to the scene of the cluster, only to find tha the swarm has been hived and taken away. We hope, however, to get our bearings all right, that we may be spared the humiliation of being compelled to return to the parent hive.

A letter just to hand from our esteemed friend and brother bee-keeper Mr. Benjamin Parks of Stuart, Fla. brings the sad intelligence of the death by typhoid fever of his second son John Parks, at Rockledge, Fla., on December 18th. Our sincere sympathy together with that of a large circle of friends, limited only by the extent of their acquaintance, goes out to the bereaved family.

A Winter Scene in Florida.

The January number of the Ladies' World, a magazine having a circulation of nearly 400,000 copies, has a most excellent contribution "written for the Ladies' World by Lena Thatcher," entitled "Honey as an Article of Food." The article is exceedingly well written and evinces upon the part of the author an intimacy with the subject that is by no means ordinary. Such wide dissemination of educational matter we regard as of inestimable value to the bee-keeping industry; yet in this particular case it is to be regretted that "Lena Thatcher" was neither endowed with originality in proportion to her ambitions nor had acquired a knowledge of literary propriety, which demanded that the article be duly credited to Thomas G. Newman, from whose writings it was taken almost verbatim.

The Bee Keeper invites correspondence upon all matters relating to bees and bee-keeping.

The American Bee Keeper invites its readers to send in reports of the past and projected plans for the coming season. These little items are an interesting, and often instructive, feature of our bee journals. If your experience has taught some new idea in practical work, write it up for The Bee Keeper. We shall always be pleased to receive communications from our readers, and to pay for articles of exceptional merit relating to bee-keeping.

Bright, warm days during February and March often induce bees wintering upon the summer stands to fly freely, and serious loss not infrequently results from large numbers alighting upon the snow, where they become chilled and die. Do not neglect, then, to litter well with straw about the hives and thus save thousands of bees so much needed at this particular season to protect the brood nest now being formed. Better prevent too frequent flights by shading the entrances during sunny days.

We are pleased to note that the proposed amendments to the constitution of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, as published in the October number of The American Bee Keeper and submitted to a vote of its members, were carried almost unanimously. We hope every reader of The American Bee Keeper may appreciate our mutual good fortune in having such an able organization to represent and protect our interests, and that all may realize their evident duty, in behalf of their personal interests and the future welfare of the bee-keeping industry, to become members and thus assist the important work projected.

Our subscribers will note the decreased number of pages in The Bee Keeper this month, the entire paper being devoted to the industry in the interest of which it is published. We shall gladly make additions to our space as patronage may warrant; bu to include in a bee journal that clas of miscellaneous reading matter to b found in weekly newspapers, or to espouse the cause of other industries o professions is not in accordance wit our idea of conducting an apicultura magazine. We trust our readers ma approve the action, and by their kin co-operation assist us in making Th Bee Keeper an exclusive bee journal, a implied by the name, interesting an instructive.

In commenting upon the undevelope condition of the Southern honey market, through the American Bee Journal, Mrs. L. Harrison says she visite many groceries enquiring for honey i Mobile (a city of about 44,000), bu found none. We have made a simila canvass in Chattanooga, Altanta, Savannah and other Southern cities wit about the same results, when, at th same time, the commission men an warehouses of Chicago and New Yor were storing tons of honey. One grocer in Atlanta, who kept a large stor on one of the principal streets, told u that he had never had but one lot c "honey in little boxes," and that as was a novelty it sold very readil Does not the importance of united action on the part of honey producer tending toward some systematic method of distributing their product mor generally and educating the people t its use, become more apparent eac day?

WHO'S THE CHAMPION?

"Three hundred and thirty-fou pounds of honey was extracted from single hive in England the past seaso by Lancelot Quayle. The British Be Journal regards this as probably th largest ever taken in the kingdom."—[It is hardly fair to crow over our British cousins; but some years ago a record of 700 pounds was reported fro Texas, but it was discredited by a goo many prominent bee-keepers. We d know, however, that two or three leading bee-keepers did secure as much as 450 or 500 pounds each from a single colony and its increase.—Ed.]

The foregoing quotation is one of Dr. Miller's Stray Straws, followed by editorial comment, in Gleanings. Now, if that Texas yield is the one reported years ago from Dresden, it has shrunk some 300 pounds since its palmy days of great popularity, as we recall it. It is the duty of the American press to stand by and defend American's record. Of course we don't want to crow, but we can hardly allow this alarming decline to continue unnoticed. Cannot B. F. C. yet set the matter aright before an envious world? Was it really 700 or 1,000 pounds?

Seriously, now, it would be interesting to know who does hold the champion single-colony record of America. In this connection we take occasion to refer to a visit that it was our good fortune to enjoy in the fall of 1894 at the home of W. S. Hart of Florida, who had, during the season then just past, filled to the bung with honey 101 barrels from his apiary of 116 colonies. While together in the "bee yard" Mr. Hart pointed to two hives standing side by side, remarking: "There are two colonies that gave me over 600 pounds each. I did not weigh the honey separately, but I am certain that the two gave upwards of 1,200 pounds of honey." Until better claims are forthcoming we concede the laurels to W. S. Hart.

AS TO FOUL BROOD LAWS.

Inquiry is being made by the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, regarding the foul brood laws of the various states. Editor Abbott of the Busy Bee, while approving this manifest interest in behalf of bee-keepers, is inclined to regard the enactment of stringent laws against the adulteration of all food products as of greater importance to bee-keepers just now.

To those whose bees are in no immediate danger of foul brood, the pure food laws may appear to be of primary moment. But there are today in the United States bee-keepers who are struggling to eliminate the foul brood scourge from their apiaries, while within the same range whole apiaries have been wiped out by the disease and others badly affected are still kept by one of that rare, though too numerous, know-it-all, bull-headed class who refuses to either act or to permit others to treat his bees, though it would be undertaken without expense to the wise (?) owner, who "knows his own business."

This condition of affairs exists in one of the most productive honey fields in the whole country, wherein are established, under efficient management, large apiaries, constantly menaced by this veritable hotbed of bacillus alvei. Without the aid of foul brood laws to stamp out and eradicate the contagion, ultimate ruin to surrounding bee-keeping interests is evident. Yet, owing to the prevalent lack of knowledge of bee-keeping in general, action upon a most perfect foul brood bill, introduced at the last session of the State Legislature, was indefinitely postponed. Let us assist, rather than discourage, any possible interest that may have been awakened upon the part of the government. To many bee-keepers the importance of securing legislation in this line is measured by the value of their apiarian interests.

THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH.

Today, February 1st, the frozen snow squeaks and moans beneath the feet of passing pedestrians; the graceful window ornamentation, artistically designed by Jack Frost, obstructs the view of drifting snow without. A typical Northern winter day, with the mercury hovering about the zero mark and fires blazing high upon every hearth. No sound emanates today from the hives packed upon the summer stands; and as the bee-keeper sees the swirling snow drifting over the hives he mentally questions the possibility of having neglected anything in their preparation for the ordeal.

Noting this condition of affairs as it exists at this date in Western New York, is it any wonder that such importance is attached to climatic influences, as accounting for various conflicting results and experiences in bee-keeping, when contrasted with the following extract from a private letter, just received from a friend in Dade county, Florida: "My bees are working fine now. Some of the hives are nearly full of new honey; so I will have to begin extracting soon."

It is difficult to realize that within this short distance, in our own country, the air is today as balmy as June and ringing with the merry hum of bees; birds caroling in shady bowers, and gaudy butterflies flitting among the endless profusion of wild flowers that characterize the "Flowery Peninsula."

We doubt not that an account of Florida bee-keeping, and the life of a migratory "bee-man" in that land of sunshine, would be of interest to our readers, and the editor will improve the opportunity when it is offered, to "fill in" with accounts of his rambles in Florida and other bee-keeping countries.

It is our wish to present in The Bee Keeper each month some bee-keeping scenes, which we will do if our readers will kindly send photos of their apiaries, together with a statement of their methods and experience, to be published in connection therewith. Starting upon our new duties February 1st, the work of getting out the February number was necessarily undertaken on "short notice," hence some of the improvements contemplated must follow later; and in the absence of any pictures of apiaries belonging to our readers, we present in this number a winter scene in Florida.

The apiary shown was established at New Smyrna, on the east coast of Florida, by the present editor of Th American Bee Keeper, in 1894; and it brief history will afford subject matte for future descriptive articles, whicl in connection with other engraving will appear in these columns. Ye editor and his paternal assistant wer engaged in a tour of inspection whe the "snap" was taken. Our bachelo quarters were pitched in the buildin shown in the background, which serve also as a workshop.

SURPLUS FOUNDATION.

A point in favor of using full sheet of foundation in the sections was mad by J. A. Green at the Chicago convention of the Northwestern: "If you hav a small strip in the top the consume can tell it; if not, nine times out of te he can't detect it."

If there is really a perceptible diffe ence between a natural septum and on of pure, refined beeswax of ligh weight, which in a general sense i very doubtful, to associate the two i one section, is to invite the attention c the consumer to the contrast.

Thanks to the skillful efforts of ou leading manufacturers of foundation the uniform quality, low price and superiority of their goods, the da when nearly every bee-keeper in th land seemed to think it his duty to ow a foundation mill, and to use exclusively his own crude, irregular and off color foundation from top to bottom has fled, and the talk of "fish-bone, which resulted from this amateu work, will incidentally pass away wit the decline of the practice. Home made foundation was one of those "advance steps" in which theory and practice failed to tally. That it was a ver popular, though false, idea of econom is attested by the affectionate embrac of retired paraphernalia and cobweb to be seen in the extreme rear of ever modern bee-house attic.

Send your report for publication i The Bee Keeper.

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

It has been often noted that too fre-ent handling results in detriment ther than improvement to the con-tion of bees. Beginners are especial- prone to bestow excessive care and ork upon their new charge; which, ough tending to impede the natural ogess that would otherwise continue the hive, imparts to the student that hich is of greater importance than e commercial value of the product at might be derived under skillful anagement. By thus familiarizing mself with their characteristic na-re, the prime requisite to successful e-keeping is unconsciously acquired, d the foundation for future success ereby established.

The student may have committed to emory the advice and instructions of ngstroth, Quinby and Cook, having bearing upon the work in hand; still, ithout practical experience, he is un-alified to proceed with that confi-nce begotten of personal knowledge, essential to the accomplishment of sired ends. Yet he cannot afford to vote years of his life to finding out practice that which he may learn ithin a few days by reading the ex-rience of others.

The text-book, the periodical publi-tion and practice constitute the hree graces." And the greatest of ese is practice.

LITERARY ITEMS.

Professor Lion's incubator, which is w to be seen in New York, is a mar-l of inventive skill, scientific ingenu- and mechanical expertness; and the ating, the ventilation, and the hy-enic conditions, upon which the life the prematurely born or weakly in-nt must depend are so simple, so sys-matic and so practical in arrange-ent as to seem almost flawless. In der to have the benefit of the incu-tor treatment, it is not absolutely cessary that babies be sent to the institute. Single incubators, with trained nurses, are sent to private houses, or hospitals, if desired; though this method is naturally far more expensive than the "ward" treatment, and is also less certain in results. In all the incubator hospital children brought by very poor parents are treated free. The woman who shudders with horror over the idea of these fragile mites of humanity being shut up in cages, without mother arms or crooning lullabies, has an entirely mistaken idea of the situation, which a single glance in the babies' dining-room would obliterate. For the nurses apparently love their shadowy little charges, and the amount of petting the unconscious, wabbling atoms receive would comfort the heart of the most sensitive mother. They are never by any chance the least bit pretty, yet they are petted and snuggled and fondled and loved to the absolute contentment of every woman's desire; and the nurses grow so fond of them that very often quiet tears are shed when the cage door is opened for the pet bird to fly away. Why, the very French word for incubator (couveuse) means brooding.—From 'Scientific Mothering," in Demorest's Family Magazine for February.

The spring catalog of the Geo. A. Sweet Nursery company of Dansville, N. Y., has been received. It comprises 24 pages and lists a most complete line of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs. The Sweet company propose through the medium of this catalog to save their patrons the agents' commissions by selling direct to the planter.

Pare and cut the apples into slices; put them in a baking pan with a layer of coarse bread crumbs between the layers of apples, having the top layer of crumbs. Put two tablespoonfuls of molasses into half a cupful of water; pour the mixture over; bake in a moderate oven.—February Ladies' Home Journal.

Our 1898 Catalog.

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HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic
port of the Honey and Beeswax market in dif-
ent trade centers:

Boston, Mass., Jan. 28, 1898.—Light demand for
ney. Good supply. Price of comb 9 to 12 cents
r lb. Extracted 5 to 6½c. per lb. Good demand
beeswax. Practically no supply. Prices 26 to
. per lb.
Blake, Scott & Lee,
57 Chatham Street.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 27, 1898.—The demand for
kinds of honey is slow. Good supply. Price
comb 10 to 13c. per lb., for best comb. Extract-
3½ to 6c. per lb. Fair demand for beeswax.
ices 20 to 25c. per lb. for good to choice yellow.
never before saw so slow a demand for comb
d extracted honey. Hard times and mild
ather seem to have formed a combination.
Chas. F. Muth & Son,
Cor. Freeman and Central aves.

etroit, Mich., Jan. 28, 1898.—Slow demand for
ney. Fair supply. Prices of comb 8 to 13c. per
Extracted 4 to 6c. per lb. Good demand for
swax. Light supply. Prices 25 to 26c per lb.
ncy white honey not plenty Other grades in
d supply.
M. H. Hunt,
Bell Branch, Mich.

ansas City, Mo., Jan. 24, 1898.—Fair demand
honey. Large supply. Price of comb 9 to
½c. per lb. Extracted 4½ to 6c. per lb. Good
nand for beeswax. Light supply. Prices 25 to
. per lb.
Hamblin & Bearss,
514 Walnut Street.

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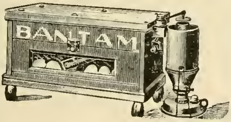

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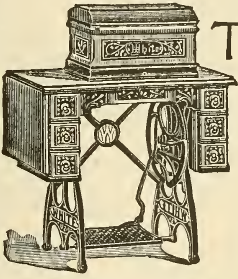

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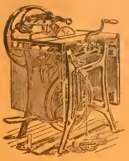

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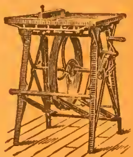

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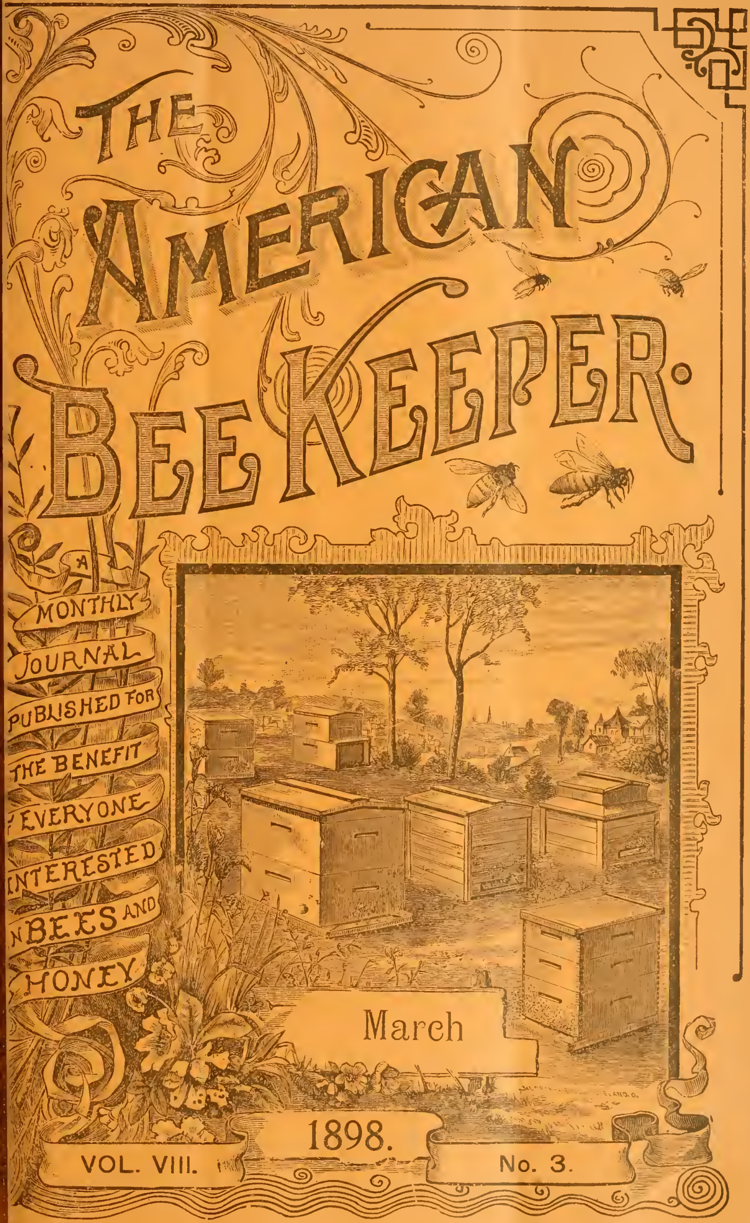

THE AMERICAN BEE KEEPER.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE INTERESTED IN BEES AND HONEY

March

1898.

VOL. VIII. No. 3.

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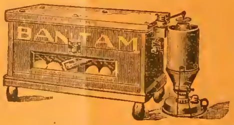

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2-2 **BUCKEYE INCUBATOR CO., Springfield, O**

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. MARCH, 1898. No. 3.

The Problem of Marketing.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,]

BY ED. JOLLEY.

THE market is an offspring of demand. When there is no demand there is no market. When the demand exceeds the supply of any commodity, the market price will go up. When the supply is equal to the demand, the market will be firm, and the prices good. When the supply exceeds the demand, the tendency of the market price is downward. When the supply on the market is far in excess of the demand, the market is overloaded, glutted, and the effect of a glutted market is depressing on any commodity.

The producers are the ones who suffer the consequences of an overloaded market. It is not the commission man, who handles the butter and eggs, cabbage and potatoes, who loses when the market is gorged. His rates of commission remain the same, and the increased volume of business, and quick sales arising from the cut in prices, enable him to come out on the safe side.

It is not the broker in the exchange who loses when there is a decline in the price of wheat, oil or money. It is the producers of these commodities who suffer. And, really, are they not responsible for the gorge? Is it not, in the majority of cases, through injudicious management on the part of producers, that the market is glutted and the price of their product lowered?

The market prices that rule the whole country are established in a few of our large cities. If you take a load of produce to your nearest town and ask your merchant what he is paying for such produce, he will scan the columns of his daily and quote to you the market price. If you remonstrate, and tell him there is a general scarcity of such produce, he will quickly tell you that it may be scarce here, but there is plenty of it in New York or Chicago, and by taking a car load of it he can get it from there at a little lower price than that quoted. If you would sell your produce at all you must sell at the market price—a price that is made in the glutted markets of a city three or four hundred miles away.

That the producers have worked their own ruin, is especially true of the honey producer. Because in other lines of produce the excuse of over production can often be given. But of honey, there never was an overproduction, and I doubt if there ever will be one. If every man, woman and child were to eat a reasonable amount of honey for one month, there would not be honey enough left to cause a hollow tooth to ache.

The price of honey goes but little or no higher in times of dearth than in seasons of universal plenty. Simply because we always manage to keep an over-load at the great emporiums where the market price is made; because so many of our greatest honey producers manage to dump their crops into the large cities at the same time, and establish a price that those who would supply the smaller cities and towns are bound to compete with.

The market price is bound to be the ruling price. You used just as much coffee when it was twenty-five cents per pound as you do now when it is twelve cents. You paid the twenty-five cents with as good grace as you do the twelve. Why? Simply because it is the market price. If a grocer was to ask you twenty-five cents for a pound of coffee now, when it's selling for twelve, we would think he was a rogue, and was trying to cheat us. So it is with honey; if you try wholesaling your honey at a higher price than that quoted from the trade centres, the people think you are trying to "work them."

It is often advanced that the careless, slovenly bee-keeper, with his untidy and unattractive honey has played a very prominent part in spoiling our honey market. Now, I do not believe that. He cannot be blamed for selling his honey at a low price. He is selling it in open competition with finer honey, and the contrast of his honey adds to the appearance of that with which he has to compete. He is lucky to sell it at any price. At all events, he is a very small factor in swaying the general market either way. Neither has the bee-keeper who goes to town with a load of honey and sells it for what he can get, to do with injuring the general honey market. The bee-keeper who manages to sell his honey for a few cents per pound in advance of the market price, may consider himself lucky. But like the slovenly bee-keeper with his untidy honey, he, too, is a small factor in raising the general market price.

It has been argued that the adulterators of our product have wrought the ruin of our honey market. Now, I believe that adulteration has injured the honey business, but I doubt if it has played the important part in lowering the price in the general market that has been charged up to it. But, be that as it may, the remedy that will correct the other evils of the honey market, will correct this one, too.

The cause that has been pre-eminent in lowering the price of honey has been the competition among the commission men and dealers. Nearly every large city has a number of commission houses where produce of all kinds honey included, is sold on commission. As soon as the honey harvest is over nearly all the bee-keepers within a radius of 150 to 200 miles of these cities ship their honey to these commission men. As a result, within an incredible short time after the honey harvest. every commission house is overloaded with honey that must be disposed of. Now I believe the majority of these commission men are honest, conscientious men, who do what they think is best under the circumstances. Commission man A will start comb honey at 15 cents per pound and extracted at 10 cents. Commission man B says I have a big lot of honey on hand, I will make it ½ cent lower, and make a run and get rid of my load. C says I have got to get rid of my load some way, I make it another ½ cent lower. D says I have a big lot on hand, and it takes up my room, too. I believe it would be better for me and the owners of this honey, too, for me to make a quick job of it and get it out of my way and get them their money; I will just run this off at 1 cent lower than those other fellows. This haggling is kept up until about all the bee-keeper gets out of his summer of hard work is the little bit of glory he can get out of it.

Another very important factor in lowering the general price of honey, is the cheap sweets, such as sugar and syrups, with which it has to compete.

There are two or three other agents that are more or less hurtful, but I will pass them, as this article is already long, and I have not yet touched on the remedy.

It is easier to diagnose diseases than to prescribe an effective cure. But if we will ever place honey in its proper place in the markets of the world, the first great step is UNITY among the producers of it. Before we can do anything we must become thoroughly organized. After which, I would suggest, that the country be divided into several districts; a head agent to be appointed for each district; one in whom the bee-keepers of the district have perfect confidence as to honesty and business ability. The head agent to be located in the chief city of his district, and have sub-agents under his control in the smaller cities and towns of the district. The head agent must be minutely informed of all the honey for sale in his district, over and above what each bee-keeper can dispose of in his home market, which must not be neglected under any consideration.

The head agent being located in the chief city, it will be his duty to act as wholesaler of honey for that city, handling nothing but honey in wholesale way. He will be able, with a little help, to supply a large city. It will be his duty to keep honey out of the hands of commission men and dealers, except those who buy the honey outright. It will be his duty to furnish the price of honey for the market columns of the papers; and his duty to set the price that his sub-agents throughout the districts must sell by. These men, having control of all the honey in the district, and the different districts of all in the country, there can be no competition, and it being to their interests not to overload the market, there is no reason why the price of honey could not be steadily raised to where it ought to be.

These men should receive a reasonable commission for their services. Having control of all the honey in the country, a reasonable commission would make the business a very remunerative one for them, and they, in turn, would make bee-keeping a very profitable employment.

There being an honest agent in every market in control of the honey, the adulterator of honey would be out of a job. If there should be any of it done there would be a man on the ground to look after him.

When the bee-keepers of the country thoroughly wake up to their own interests and become thoroughly organized, the adulterators of honey will not find the smooth sailing to which they have been accustomed. The ban of our product will have disappeared behind us in the past. The United States Bee-Keepers' Union will have so much money on hand that every now and then they will be compelled to declare a dividend in favor of the members instead of as now, appealing with outstretched hands for just money enough to make an example of one adulterator of honey.

Neat and attractive packages, together with increased confidence in the purity of honey, and fair dealing, will in a great measure overcome the cheap sweets that honey has to compete with.

The quantity of honey consumed will be greatly increased by its even and systematic distribution.

Franklin, Pa.

Olden Time Bee-keeping.

Written for The American Bee-Keeper,

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes me to tell the readers of the American Bee-Keeper something of my beginning in the bee business, thinking the same may be interesting to many of the readers of this paper. As this beginning happened at a time when the old systems were in vogue, I am led to say a few words along the line of my boyhood days. When I was quite small, father "took" a colony of bees of a neighbor living about a mile distant, to keep on shares, each to have half of the increase and half of the surplus honey. This surplus was mostly obtained by killing the weaker and poorer of the colonies in the fall, with the fumes of burning sulphur and then taking whatever honey they had laid up for the winter. Thus, when fall came, the neighbor and father would look over the bees, and decide how many and which colonies should be killed, after which the honey obtained was divided equally between them. If more was obtained than was necessary for family use, a portion was taken to our nearest village, this being always the best part, and exchanged for groceries, boots, dry goods, etc. I can almost see the pails of beautiful snow-white comb honey father would take to town, as I write, though forty-five years have passed since then; this white honey being taken mostly from after swarms which were considered too light in stores to winter. The darker combs, and those partly filled with bee bread, were left at home for our consumption, to be used in the shape of strained honey. The straining was done by cutting up the combs till every cell was broken and then putting the whole into a bag made of thin cotton cloth. The bag was then hung up near the fire so it might be kept as warm as possible, this making the honey more thin so it would drain out better into a vessel placed underneath. The quality of this honey was very fair, and if no dark or fall honey was in the combs it would approximate nearly to our white extracted honey of today. After all had drained out, which would do so by hanging by the fire, several small sticks were placed across the top of a large pan, kept for the purpose, the bag placed on the sticks, and the whole set in the oven. The oven was kept as warm as possible and not melt the wax very much, and in this way quite a quantity of inferior honey was obtained.

Right here I wish to digress a little. During the late past we have ofte been told, where strained honey wa being compared with extracted, tha the latter was the clear nectar of th flowers, free from all impurities, etc while the former was of suspiciou character, obtained by mashing up th combs of brood, pollen and honey, together with whatever dead bees migh adhere thereto, and squeezing th whole through a cloth by wringin with the hands. From all knowledge have, I would as soon risk the cleanliness of strained honey as that of extracted; for at our house, nothin looking like dead bees, brood, or filth was ever allowed in the sack from which the honey was strained, while have seen disgusting-looking larva b the score, together with the food given them, floating on a vessel of honey where extracting was being done from the brood chamber of the hive, as i very frequently practiced even at thi time, although not nearly so much s as at an earlier date in the existence o the extractor. The killing of the bees to secure the honey, the destroying o the combs, the mixing of the light and dark honey, and the slight taste o pollen, was all that I could ever see that was objectionable to strained honey.

But to return. After a few years, the bees from the first colony above referred to, had so increased that a division was made, and the neighbor took away what belonged to him. By this time I had become large enough so I could watch the bees, and during the months of June and July, whenever I was not at school, I was stationed near the apiary from 9 o'clock in the morning till 3 in the afternoon, to look for swarms. This soon became very tiresome, and I often begged to be allowed to go off with the other boys, but as father thought that all should bear an equal share of the burden of supporting the family, according to their strength and ability, I was kept at my post, instead of being allowed to roam the streets and fields with other boys of my age.

About this time father concluded to try to get his surplus honey by placing arge boxes holding from twelve to fifteen pounds of honey on the hives. Some of these were placed on top of the hive and others at the sides, according as he thought best. I remember as distinctly as though it were yesterday of his hiving two swarms that clustered together in one hive and then placing two of these large boxes at the ides and one on top. To place them at he sides, the hive was raised on half-nch blocks, the same as some are recommending today, and a slot was ut in the bottom of the boxes one-half nch deep, next the side toward the hive, thus making a passage for the bees. The result was that he took about eighty pounds of "box" honey rom this hive, fully two-thirds of which was taken from the sides. Soon after this, one morning when father was leaving home on business, a small econd swarm came out, and as he did not consider it worth the time he must spend in hiving it, he told me I might have it as my own if I would secure it. Up to this time I had never hived a swarm, and it took some little ourage for an 8-year-old boy to climb o the top of a tree to get a swarm of bees for the first time; so I thought, at east. I finally got them hived and beame so interested in them that I must go to see them every day, and when the cool weather of fall came on, would go and tap on the hive for the good morning" answer, which was always granted me. In a few days there ame a morning when I tapped on the hive as usual, but without an answer, nd there was a strange hollow sound given off so different from what I had een accustomed to, I carefully tipped p the hive and peered in to be greeted nly with an empty box, for during the ight some one had taken the hive to he woods, killed the bees with fire, and taken the honey, as the charred and combless hive conclusively proved. I was very much grieved over this part of the matter, but as we could not trace out the thief, I had to pocket the insult and make the best of it. At about this time foul brood appeared in the apiary, and in two years father lost all his bees from this disease, and my bee-keeping came to an end for a period. Fourteen years now elapsed, when I started in bee-keeping on the improved plan, of which I will try and tell a little later on.

Borodino, N. Y.

Importance of Breeding from Good Stock.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,

BY J. B. CASE.

MOST bee-keepers, no doubt, think that it is a good plan to breed from good stock, i.e. good queens; but I believe that few realize how important it is to breed from the very best.

Stock breeders know that to breed the best type they must use breeders that excel in the points they wish to perpetuate; and they devote years in breeding to fix certain desirable traits, so that those traits will be transmitted, almost without fail, thus obtaining a breed that is very desirable in the traits wished for.

I believe it is fully as important to breed bees for the traits we desire as it is to breed cattle for milking, or beef qualities; though, to be sure, we do not have the control in mating bees that we have with stock. Yet we can rear the mothers from the stock having the qualities which we desire, and by continuing this course, curtailing the production of drones from inferior queens, and crossing with other desirable strains, bees may be bred up to average better and thus prove more profitable to their owner. Perhaps a little experience will help to illustrate this point.

When I commenced bee-keeping I

was in a locality that was quite good for buckwheat and poor for clover and other early sources of honey. I bought a few box hives—this was in '73—selecting the best colonies—black bees—from apiaries a few miles apart. These gave much larger yields than the bees that were in my neighborhood. I transferred them and tried some Italians. To get breeders I selected stocks from apiaries a few miles away, and was so well pleased that in 1879 (I think it was) I went to A. W. Lundy and paid an extra price for the colony of Italians that had made the largest amount of honey the previous year out of some fifty or sixty colonies of Italians.

The season opened up with the best flow of honey from apple bloom that I ever saw, and this colony superseded the queen during the flow from apples, rearing five cells. All produced fine queens, which in due time were used in small colonies. The season gave very little surplus, and one of these queens was wintered in a strong nucleus with four combs and surrounded with chaff. They wintered well, and by giving combs of honey with the cappings broken, they bred up and did about as well as the average. The season was only medium, but they went into winter quarters with almost solid combs of honey.

The next spring they were in fine condition. I gave them a hive with fifteen frames, 10½x12½ inside measure. June 1st they had brood in fourteen frames and by measure contained 1,200 square inches of brood. The eight middle frames contained as much brood as a good average colony. June 10th it swarmed. I removed eight of the best combs of brood, leaving six or seven, and a frame of foundation in the center, and hived on the old stand, covering sides and top with boxes. In just a month I took off eighty pounds of as fine honey as I ever saw, and later forty-five pounds more. The brood removed to another stand lost their queen in mating, but another was supplied and they gave fifty pounds, making 175 pounds and one swarm.

The colonies with the four sister queens gave 140 pounds, 125 pounds, 112 pounds and the other but little more than the average of the yard, which was seventy pounds. All except the last were very prolific. Besides these I only had two or three stocks that gave over 100 pounds (all was box). I had Italians of other strains, and blacks, and hybrids; all told about fifty colonies. None of my neighbors got as much as 100 pounds from their best colonies. I bred from this strain unti I left New Jersey, in 1884, and compared with other selected stocks they were superior as workers to any I could get and quite equal to any in other respects.

At this time I was using a modification of "Doolittle's" system of side and top boxing, with usually seven to eigh combs in the brood apartment. These queens, though two years old, had never had much incentive to over exer themselves in egg laying, as both previous seasons had been poor and very very poor.

In the following years I noticed that queens bred from the best queen mentioned above, averaged better than those from any other queen that I raised from. I was not in the queen-rearing business, but I used all the available cells from swarms, when needed, always preferring those from the best stock, and did not attempt to rear any artificially. But it would have paid big to have re-queened al my inferior colonies with queens from the best one that I had, as I have proved to my own satisfaction since.

As this is my first article for The American Bee-Keeper, I will close, or perhaps the editor will invite me to stop.

Port Orange, Fla.

—[Too much cannot be said regarding the improvement of our stock; and we are especially pleased to give space to the discussion of the subject by one so thoroughly qualified by nature and long experience, as our friend Case.—ED.]

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Belgian market is taking some of California's amber grade of extracted honey.

—o—

Any one who has never seen a case of foul bood ought to send for the December number of the Bee-Keepers' Review. A specimen therein presented lacks only the smell.

—o—

Lewis Leighton, of Nebraska, in A. B. J., finds the white variety of sweet clover a most excellent forage plant for bees, but a complete failure as fodder for stock of any kind.

—o—

The Wisconsin State Bee-Keepers' Association has formally indorsed the United States Bee-Keepers' Union. Amalgamation of the two unions was also favored by the convention.

—o—

A resolution presented at the California State Bee-Keepers' Association, "That the new United States Bee-Keepers' Union should absorb the National Union," carried by 43 to 0.

—o—

Extracted honey warehouse receipts of the California Bee-Keepers' Exchange for 1897, were 484,287 pounds. Twenty car-loads were sold through the exchange during the last three months.

—o—

"There are about 53,000 bee-keepers in the British Isles. They will average five colonies each; in favorable locations the yield is from 100 to 150 lbs. per colony, but the general yield is from 50 to 60 lbs."

—o—

"The wholesale price of comb honey in the British Isles is from 14 to 20 cents; extracted, 12 cents. The value of the annual product is about $750,000. Besides the home production there is a monthly import of from 10,000 to 15,000 lbs, the greater portion of it from the United States and Canada."

Letters patent have recently been granted to one E. Arrington, on "a bee catcher." The report fails to designate whether the apparatus is designed to "catch" queens, drones or whole swarms. We may hear more of it in the future. But we don't expect to.

—o—

"What is the best tree to plant or the best seed to sow for bee pasturage?" continues to be asked by the novice, and the veteran repeats over, and over again, the answer, "It will not pay to cultivate any known plant exclusively for honey."

—o—

The recent elections of the National Bee-Keepers' Union, resulted in handsome majorities for all the former officers. The resolution that Manager Newman be allowed 20 cents on each membership, as compensation for his services, carried "with a rush."

—o—

The thirteenth annual report of the National Bee-Keepers' Union for 1897, by General Manager T. G. Newman, of San Francisco, shows the past year to have been one of useful activity for that organization; and the treasury is still in a very healthy condition.

—o—

Harry Lathrop, in Gleanings, predicts no clover honey in Wisconsin this year. The basis of his prophecy is the fact, so stated, that it takes two years to produce a good crop of honey, from the time the seed is deposited in the ground, and the unfavorable conditions for germinating the seed, that followed the deposit of '96.

—o—

Wm. A. Selser, of Philadelphia, who is an "old hand" at the honey business, through the American Bee Journal, urges eastern producers to market their product not later than November, before the arrival of car-load shipments from California, which, he says, come every year and are dumped at ruinous prices on an over-burdened market, during the winter.

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Falconer, N. Y.

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EDITORIAL.

PLAIN VS. OLD-STYLE SECTIONS.

The Bee-Keepers' Review for January presents a most interesting and beautiful half tone engraving of eight finished sections of honey. As four of the sections are of the standard, or "old-style," and four of the plain ones, the illustration is presented as an object lesson in comb building, and to show by contrast the superior work obtained by the use of the plain section. And in this case it is, indeed, very striking.

If such contrast could be shown from the same colony, by partly filling a super with each style of sections and separators, or even by a separate super, during a continued flow of honey, the superiority claimed by many for the plain section would be established beyond the possibility of further question. The editor says of the illustration: "This is a fair representation of such honey as I have seen produced in the two classes of sections." That's good, and is, in itself, enough to give considerable weight to the possibility of the wide difference being a result of the difference in the style of sections; yet the Review's characteristic spirit of fairness is becomingly maintained in the above quotation by emphasizing the personal pronoun. Having had no personal experience with the plain section, Bro. Hutchinson's illustration of the relative appearance of the work secured in the two styles of sections, and his remarks relating thereto are doubly interesting; and we have no hesitation in saying that if such widely different results in the matter of filling out and finishing up the work, as depicted, is wholly due to the style of the section, that the introduction of the plain section will mark the beginning of a new era in the history of comb-honey production. But the high degree of perfection to which Editor Hutchinson has risen in the photographic art as well as in that of bee-keeping and journalism, as revealed by the excellent definition and brilliancy of the negative, due to perfect lighting and a knowledge of every detil in the treatment of his subject, from start to finish, discloses (to our mind) existing conditions in the production of the specimens shown that may have been responsible in a measure for the striking contrast in the appearance of the work, other than the style of the section.

In the case of the in-set sections, it is apparent that the bees were not crowded much, either as to numbers or storage room; while the plain ones have every appearance of having been taken from a strong colony that was confined to a comparatively limited space. If economy of room fails to account for the extra completion of the work and the smooth, flat cappings shown in the plain sections, as compared with the open edges and convex capping, clearly defining the line of the side-walls of each cell in the old-style specimens, may the picture not serve as an object lesson in comb-building traits, in favor of the colony employed in the production of the former?

Send us fifty cents and secure the
egular visits of The Bee Keeper for a
hole year.

The marriage of Miss Constance Me-
oa Root and Arthur Lonson Boyden
ccurred February 1, 1898, at Medina,
hio. The bride is a daughter of Mr.
. I. Root, the well-known manufac-
urer of apiarian supplies, and Mr. Boy-
en, who was at one time connected
ith the office of the W. T. Falconer
fg. Co., is at present an employe of
he A. I. Root Company at Medina.
he Bee-Keeper extends sincere well-
ishes.

Of John Newton, president of the Ox-
ord Bee-keepers' Association, the
anadian Bee Journal well says: "He
a young bee-keeper of more than or-
inary promise, and is already in the
ont ranks." We are pleased to an-
ounce that Mr. Newton has consented
write a series of articles for The
merican Bee-Keeper, and we are now
nticipating the pleasure of introduc-
ng to our readers this rising young
piarist of Canada in the next issue of
he Bee-Keeper.

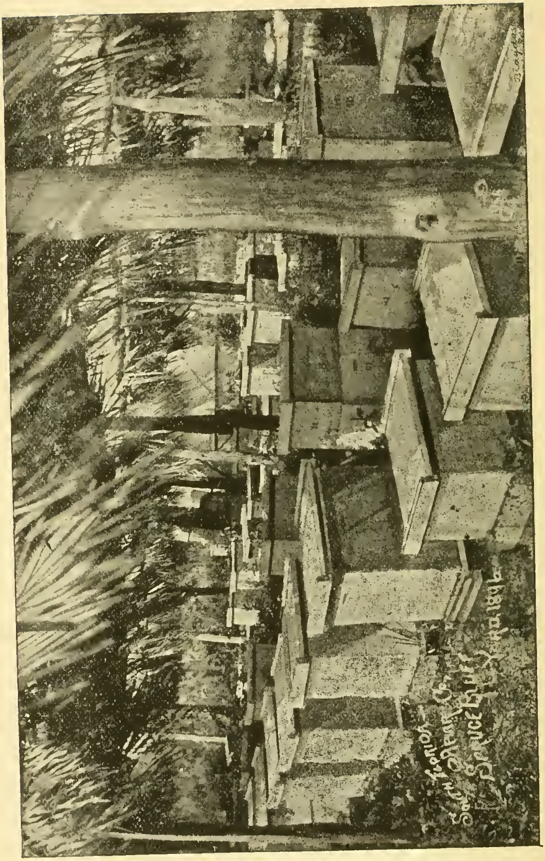
The apiarian display at the Trans-
ississippi and International Expos-
ion at Omaha, next summer, will,
ithout doubt, be the grandest ever
pened to the public. A special build-
g is being erected to accommodate
e extensive exhibits of bees, apiarian
pliances and apiary products. The
ureau of Bee Industries is in charge
Commissioner E. Whitcomb, of
riend, Neb., who is sparing no effort
eclipse all previous efforts in this
ne. One thing is certain, the work is
competent hands.

EARLY SPRING WORK.

The first work of importance when
es are out of winter quarters in the
ring, is to ascertain the strength of
ch colony, and to allow no more
om in the hive than is absolutely
cessary to accommodate the bees it
contains. By the use of division boards the combs in each hive should be reduced to the covering capacity of the colony, warm cushions of chaff or sawdust tucked snugly over the frames, the entrances contracted and every precaution taken to retain the animal heat within the hive. It is of equal importance that each colony be provided with a supply of honey or a substitute, where their natural stores are running low.

There is no time that the strength of a colony may be "sized up" as accurately and quickly as on a chilly spring morning, when the bees are huddled together in the smallest space possible, upon the brood. Three men, or even one man and two smart boys, can easily go over an apiary of 200 colonies before breakfast, and ascertain just which hives need honey, and exactly how many frames each one should be contracted to. One goes ahead and removes the lids, and caps, if used, and the apiarist following closely, places his right hand under the back of the hive, and by the weight "spots" the light ones as well as those that have honey to spare; and at the same time jerks back the quilt, and at a glance notes the exact number of combs containing bees. The existing conditions are called, as the quilt is quickly replaced, and noted upon the record slate by man No. 3, and is a ready and certain guide to the treatment required by each colony when the weather is warm enough to go through and examine for queens and to contract the brood chambers.

It is quite impossible to determine the right number of combs to allow a colony, during warm spring days when they are active, as a weak stock will often make a big showing of bees under such circumstances, and it is well to confine them to the number of combs that they occupied when examined in the morning, regardless of their apparently increased strength.



SOUTH FLORIDA APIARY.—*Established by H. E. Hill.*

BEE-KEEPING IN FLORIDA.

Last month, as an introduction to the subject, we gave our readers a view of a Florida apiary. Though space will not permit a lengthy account of the advantages and disadvantages experienced by the Florida bee-keeper, we shall briefly outline some of them as they appear to us, on the east coast, to which our experience has been confined.

The wintering problem, of course, a matter of no concern to the be keeper of South Florida. The bloo of the soft maple, which skirts th wending streams, opens early in Jan ary, and by its striking contrast, lik scarlet leaves of autumn, is clearly d fined the extent of its growth, by mere glance over the landscape. Th live-oak, too, and Spanish moss, which hangs from its boughs, often in massive festoons, twenty feet or more in length, both bloom during the winter months, and secrete sparingly of honey in the early morning hours, and yield an abundance of pollen; attracting the bees in swarms, even before Old Sol has risen out of the ocean, which stretches away to meet the eastern sky.

These sources of supply all have a beneficial effect upon the building up of stocks for the regular honey season; though they are of minor importance in comparison with the wild pennyroyal, which grows in great profusion in the southern counties and blooms from December until April. Pennyroyal is quite a bountiful yielder, and the honey is of extra heavy body, almost water-white and of delicious flavor. This continued flow of honey stimulates the bees to swarming about the beginning of March and fills the hives with workers, ready for the harvest from palmetto in April and May.

It is not all smooth sailing, however, even in this "sunny southland," and some of the unpleasant conditions that exist there, and from which no country is exempt, must be reserved for future notice. Chilly nights are not so uncommon as to relieve the apiarist of the necessity of contracting the brood chambers and entrances of the weaker colonies during the winter and bestowing the same care as that required in such cases during May in the North; and the same loss will result from neglect alike in both countries.

In certain localities near the sea, mosquito hawks, or dragon-flies, are a great pest, coming, as they do, by tens of thousands, and filling the air about the apiaries, catching and devouring the busy workers by wholesale. There seems to be no practical means of dealing with this enemy, which is no small factor in reducing the working force of an apiary in localities where they abound.

The appetite of these voracious pests is seemingly without limit, as they will capture and munch down several bees in immediate succession. We have on several occasions endeavored to satisfy their ravenous greed by catching two of them, while devouring bees, and allowing one to eat all that was eatable of the other; then turning the long, slender posterior of the still-eager gourmand to its head, it would immediately proceed to consume its own body with the same apparent avidity and relish that it had shown for its earlier victims—the bees. By the use of a shingle or similar weapon, thousands of these hungry pests may be slain in a short time on a summer evening, without any perceptible decrease in the swarm still darting in all directions to intercept the flight of laden workers.

The apiary shown in this number of The Bee-Keeper is located in the pennyroyal fields of South Florida, about 260 miles south of Jacksonville, which, in favorable seasons, is a very productive location and a popular rendezvous of the festive dragon-fly.

THAT "COMING BEE"—APIS DORSATA.

As our forests and white clove fields are being superseded by cultivated fields, the necessity of developing a larger bee, with proportionately increased length of tongue, has impressed Adrian Gataz, as shown by an article in the American Bee Journal. He is confident that, by careful selection in breeding, and the use of foundation having slightly larger cells, a red clover strain may be developed. That the introduction of apis dorsata would prove a valuable acquisition to American bee-keeping, he has little doubt. As apis dorsata build no drone comb, one obstacle foreseen by Mr. Gataz is the difficulty in controlling a possible over-production of drones.

Does any one know that it would be at all necessary to restrict bees of this species in the matter of drone rearing? Now it is probably just a little early for us to add to our burden of earthly cares, the suppression of drones in colonies yet in the inaccessible jungles of Hindoostan; but since the subject is before the public, The American Bee-Keeper, presuming the existence of some distinctive feature in the cappings, as in the case of our domestic bees, bespeaks the effectual execution of an extension step-ladder and a Bingham knife in the hands of the dorsata-keeper as a final solution of this little matter; these extra trips to be paid for in red clover honey and the secretions of other flowers having deep nectaries.

GO SLOW.

That the art of bee-keeping is constantly progressing is an apparent fact, and one in which every apiarist feels a degree of justifiable pride, for each has contributed, to some extent, towards the attainment of present conditions; yet no greater authority than our own observation is required to establish the fact that the present advanced state of our art has been achieved largely through costly experiments, conducted by studiously inclined bee-keepers. Failure and disappointment have been a more frequent result in this work than anticipated success, and have been no less valuable in imparting genuine knowledge. Recent inventions are being discussed pro and con, and innumerable methods are advocated and opposed, according to the judgment and experience of those who give them attention.

Simply because reports indicate the complete success and apparent great advantage of some new method or appliance, the young bee-keeper should not hastily conclude that in order to be up with the times, he must discard his present equipment and adopt the newfangled arrangements. It has been well said that "more depends upon the man and his locality than upon the hive and fixtures in use." If we are favorably impressed in regard to some new feature suggested, it is better that we determine its practical adaptability to our personal means and ends, by moderate experiment, before making any expensive changes. Nor is it prudent for the beginner to depart radically from the general course in vogue, which has been established by years of experience. Of course, during the first year or two of his practice, it is to be expected that a few "improved" hives will be invented. The field for inventive genius in this line, however, is very limited, as will be surely realized later.

The spirit of investigation, and the desire to excel are eminently commendable, and though it has wrought the present state of perfection in apiarian appliances and methods, as a result of over-confidence in untried theories, it is also responsible for much individual loss, financially.

Now, if only the proper application were made by our young bee-keeping readers, the foregoing might as well have been expressed in two words: "Go slow."

A Belgian bee paper, Le Rucher Belge, recommends the temporary asphyxiation of bees by the fumes of burning saltpeter when it is desired to dislodge them, and they, for any reason, adhere sluggishly to the combs. About one-fourth ounce of chloroform on cotton, tucked into the entrance and then closing it will produce exactly the result described, without apparent injury to the bees. But any one who undertakes to entirely free the combs of bees at any time of year, by any method of suffocation, will surely meet disappointment. Large numbers of dormant bees will adhere to the surface of the comb so tenaciously that all shaking and jarring is useless; while all those that seek relief from the fumes of the drug, deep in the cells, succumb to its influence in that position and cannot be shaken off. Decidedly the better way is to wait until climatic conditions favor the work, then proceed in the accustomed way, with feathers, clubs and smoke.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Dr. Besse thinks that honey may be kept indefinitely without granulating by bringing it to the boiling point, adding about one tablespoonful cream of tarter to each 100 lbs., and then sealing it in air tight cans.

—o—

By a biographical sketch in the A. B. J., of C. Theilmann, of Minnesota, it is learned that this venerable, thoroughgoing and ever-successful bee-keeper, in 1872, secured from one colony, five good swarms, which, together with the parent, gave him 600 pounds of honey. This is noted in connection with the canvass for the champion record.

—o—

J. A. Bearden, in A. B. J., attaches great importance to having the honey thoroughly ripened upon the hive. He judges of the proper condition for extracting by the hum of the bees. A cessation of that evaporating roar at night, indicates that the honey is ready for the extractor. May it not also indicate that robbers will be on hand to assist ?

—o—

Now this is going the rounds of the newspapers: "That the bee is not gluttonous and does not consume more than it earns is proven by the fact that 164,000,000 pounds of honey are annually sold throughout the world for the enjoyment of the human race. The United States stands at the head of the list of honey producers with 61,000,000 pounds, and Germany comes next with 40,000,000 pounds."

—o—

J. A. Golden, in Gleanings: "People may talk about smoker fuel, but dried sunflower stalks, leaves, stems, crown, and all together, lay all other fuels in the shade so far as controlling vicious bees is concerned, giving a pleasant yet dense smoke, holding fire much longer than the majority of fuels recommended. Cut up while green, cured in the sun, then stored away, it is both handy and inexpensive. Try it."

—o—

Editor Thomas Wm. Cowan, of the British Bee Journal, England, has for some time past been visiting American apiarists. He was in attendance and made an honorary member of the California State association at its Los Angeles convention in January. Mr. Cowan gave a very interesting talk before that body on bee-keeping in England, which is our authority for several items relating to that subject, herein given.

—o—

The effect of the bee space upon the wintering of bees, is being earnestly discussed through the American Bee Journal. The arguments of all who attach no importance to its detrimental influence are promptly met in opposition, by a series of logical articles over the nom de plume, "Common Sense Bee-Keeping;" by whom it is averred that the bee-space over and around the frames, is fatal in its effect upon bees in winter.

The February issue of Table Talk is full of general and useful information for housewives. Some of the principal articles this month are: "How to Read," the second paper of a series by Mrs. Burton Kingsland; "Short Sermons from Gastronomic Texts," by Dominie Doublewit; "The Codfish," by Virginia Lyndall Dunbar; "Cuts of Beef and Their Uses," by Cornelia C. Bedford; "Home Amenities," by Mrs. Stevens, and many other excellent articles appear. A free sample of the magazine may be had by any of our readers who send their name and address to Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.:

Gentlemen—Kindly send me catalog of supplies. I am entirely sold out, and in the rush of work last season was obliged to order quickly from Chicago. I could not send to your factory, as it takes two weeks for goods to come by freight.

I have never seen anything in the section line that comes up to your Falcon section. I had a neighbor bee-man (who, by the way, does not buy his supplies from me, as he lives eight miles distant) visit me last summer when I was busy putting on sections, and he noticed how my press was working and how square my sections were when put up, and the general good appearance of the work, and he remarked that his section press was not as good as mine (he has the same kind I have), and he could not get his sections to sit up square, etc. Well, I thought at the time maybe his press was out of order somehow and gave it no further thought. Right after this I had a run on sections and sold out quick, and I had to get sections instanter; I ordered from Chicago, and, to make a short story, my press would not do good work on these sections, and they would not stand up square. and I was no better off than my distant neighbor, who blamed his press when his sections were at fault.

If you manufacture a line of goods as good as you did four years ago, I want those goods, even if I have to pay a little extra freight.

Yours truly,
JOHN W. WILCOX.
Scales Mound, Ill., Feb. 3, 1898.

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To encourage our young bee-keeping friends and develop their latent talents, The American Bee-Keeper makes the following proposition to those who have not over twenty-five colonies nor have had over five years of bee-keeping experience:

To the subscriber sending in the best and most instructive article on any subject relating to bee culture, before April 15th, 1898, we will advance the contributor's subscription one year, and pay in addition one dollar ($1.00) in cash.

For the second best, we will send one Two-inch Bingham Bee Smoker, postage prepaid, and The American Bee-Keeper free for one year.

For all others of sufficient merit to warrant publication, we will send The American Bee-Keeper one year free.

As this offer is made wholly for the encouragement of beginners, professional writers and bee-keeping specialists are excluded from competition.

Competitors must be paid-up subscribers to the American Bee-Keeper, or inclose with the article 50 cents for one year's subscription, when sending it in. A statement of the number of colonies kept and the extent of contributor's experience must accompany each article.

No article containing over 500 words will be awarded a premium. Write briefly and to the point. It is ideas we are after.

All articles accepted will be published in The American Bee-Keeper and premiums will be awarded in proportion to their merit, according to the judgment of the editor.

All articles not accepted will be held in strict confidence, and returned to the writer if return postage is sent.

Now, let us hear from our amateur readers. Don't hesitate or delay; we will appreciate your effort, whether you are successful or not. and we believe every one of our readers are capable of writing something that will be interesting and useful to others.

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Every bee-keepers' society of the state of New York is requested to send five delegates each to a convention to be held at the Kirkwood, in the city of Geneva, N. Y., March 16, 1898, at 11 o'clock, a. m., for the purpose of organizing a New York association of bee-keepers' societies, or state board of apiculture. Each society represented will have an equal voice in the organization, although they may not be represented by a full delegation.

By Order of Conference.
FRED L. EMENS, Chairman,
Fayette, Seneca Co., N. Y.
Lee B. Smith, Sec'y, Vincent, Ont. Co., N. Y.

NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD.

A fact often overlooked, or not always understood, is that women suffer as much from distressing kidney and bladder troubles as men. The womb is situated back of and very close to the bladder, and for that reason any distress, disease or inconvenience manifested in the kidneys, back, bladder or urinary passage is often, by mistake, attributed to female weakness or womb trouble of some sort.

The error is easily made and may be as easily avoided by setting urine aside for 24 hours; a sediment or settling is evidence that your kidneys and bladder need doctoring. If you have pain or dull aching in the back, pass water too frequently, or scanty supply, with smarting or burning—these are also convincing proofs of kidney trouble. If you have doctored without benefit, try Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy. The mild and extraordinary effect will surprise you. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures. If you take a medicine you should take the best. At druggists fifty cents and one dollar. You may have a sample bottle and pamphlet, both sent free by mail. Mention The American Bee-Keeper and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.

Our 1898 Catalog.

The Annual Catalog of The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co. has been mailed to every one on their lists. If any of our readers have been missed we will send them one promptly on receipt of a card.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 22, 1898.—Fair demand for honey. Ample supply. Extracted 5 to 6c per lb. Good demand for beeswax. No supply. Prices 28c. for pure stock. Price of comb honey, fancy white, in cartons, A No. 1 white 13c. No. 1 white 10 to 11c. No. 2, 8 to 9c. per lb.
BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE,
57 Chatham Street.

CINCINNATI, O., Feb. 21, 1898.—Slow demand for honey Fair supply. Price of comb 10 to 13c. for Extracted 3½ to 6c. per lb. Fair demand for beeswax with a fair supply Prices 20 to 25c. for good to choice yellow. We have not had so slow a trade for honey for years as we have had this winter.
CHAS. F. MUTH & SON,
Cor. Freeman and Central aves.

DETROIT, MICH.. Feb. 22, 1898.—Slow demand for honey. The supply of cheaper grades is good. Prices of comb 8 to 13c. per lb. Extracted 4 to 6c. per lb. Good demand for beeswax. Fair supply. Prices 26 to 27c per lb. The best grades of honey are not so plentiful.
M. H. HUNT,
Bell Branch, Mich.

KANSAS CITY, MO., Feb. 21, 1898.—Light demand for honey. Very large supply of comb honey. Price of comb honey 10 to 11c. per lb. Extracted 4 to 6c. per lb. Good demand for beeswax at 25 to 27c. per lb. No supply.
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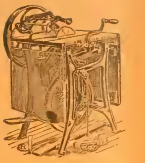

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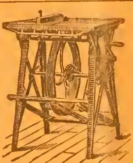

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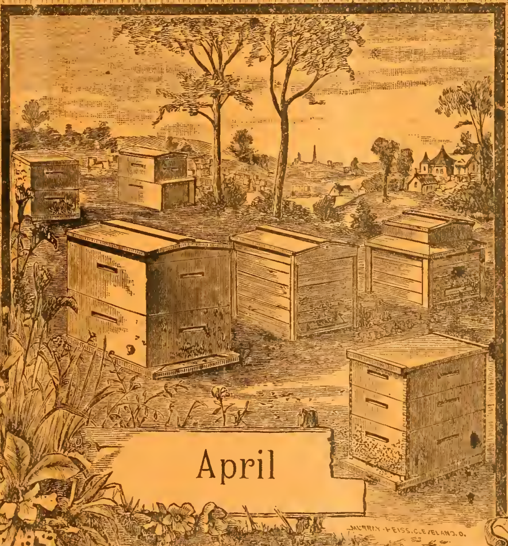
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April

1898.

VOL. VIII. No. 4.

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The Bee-Keepers' Review

Made substantial improvements with the beginning of the present year. It is printed on heavy, white book paper, from large, clear, new type, and has a cover of heavy cream, paradox paper printed in that warmest of all colors--claret. With each number there is also a frontispiece of some subject connected with bee-keeping, printed on heavy ivory enameled paper, These pictures are all half-tones made from photographs. That of December showed a comb badly infected with foul brood. January showed eight sections of comb honey, four of them in the old style of sections and four in the plain style. It is an object lesson worth seeing. The one for February shows a beautiful view of an out-apiary in the wilds of Wisconsin, a really picturesque view. March frontispiece is a scene in a sugar-maple forest in Michigan. So much by the way of mechanical improvements; but it is more difficult to describe the information it contains. Perhaps the best that can be said is that never before has there been so much pains taken to secure the best of correspondence—to get the views and experiences of the very best bee-keepers.

The price of the Review is $1.00 per year, but if you prefer to know still more about it before subscribing, send ten cents in either stamps or silver, and three late but different issues will be sent you These will give you a fair idea of the Review, and, if you then wish to subscribe, the ten cents that you have sent may apply on your subscription. A coupon will be sent entitling you to the Review one year for 90 cents if sent in during 1898.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. APRIL, 1898. No. 4.

Spring Management.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY JOHN NEWTON.

WHEN asked to give something on the spring management of bees I wondered what I would say, for it has been before the public so often, and threshed out until now it is almost threadbare.

The spring management of bees should commence in the previous fall. 'Tis true that upon the condition in which our bees go into winter quarters, and upon their wintering depends the profit of the next season. They should be strong in numbers, well supplied with good stores, and have a young queen. With these conditions, and with reasonable care in wintering, the terrors of spring dwindling are removed, and necessary spring management greatly reduced. The matter of having young queens, I am coming to regard as of the first importance. A queen that is failing at this time means an unprofitable colony during the coming season.

I have made it a practice in most cases to replace my queens after the second season. Those wintering bees in the cellar or in the bee house will be looking forward with eagerness to the time to bring them from their winter quarters. While this may seem a simple matter, yet 'tis frought with some perplexities. For instance, shall we return each colony to the stand occupied by it during the previous fall, or place them on the stand that seems the handiest to us as we bring them from the cellar? Yes, we should be sure and mark each stand in the fall and return the stock to the same situation. If not the bees will try and hunt up their old home, and in doing so go into some other hive and be killed. Then, in putting them out, we should put out but part at a time.

When should bees be put out? We used to think when the soft maple bloomed it was the time to take out our bees, but the opinion of bee-keepers seems to be changing to early setting out; in fact our old friend, J. B. Hall, puts his bees out as soon in March as they can fly. The bees being out, our first care is to see that they are well supplied with stores, as a shortage at this time means a heavy loss in the returns of the season. Bees that are wintered out of doors need the same care. This can be done by placing in combs of honey that have been saved over from the previous fall, or from any colonies that have died during the winter, leaving stores unused.

Some eminent bee-keepers have said the bees, by their clustering, form a natural hive, and so retain heat. But I think we can aid them by putting in cushions and endeavoring to keep them as tight as possible at the top. This is all that is to be done until fruit blossoms appear.

During this season, (as I am a clipper), all queens are clipped. This being the best time, before the hives get full of bees, and no danger of robbers.

Bees that have been wintered out of doors should also, at this season, have their winter cases removed.

The spreading of the brood nest, which is practiced by some, must be done with great precaution, and the novice, as a rule, will be safer to leave it alone to the bees, as I believe they know more about this matter than we do.

If spring feeding is at any time profitable, it is between apple blossom and white clover.

In conclusion, let me say: Let us disturb our bees as little as possible during the early spring.

Thamesford, Ont.

Stimulative Feeding.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,

BY ED. JOLLEY.

DOES it pay to feed in the spring to stimulate brood rearing? This is a question that comes up for consideration nearly every spring. I believe, if it is judiciously done, it will pay in any locality where the honey flow comes as early as the 10th of June. Because, without feeding, very few queens will be laying at their full capacity a month before this time, and if they are not, it means just that much shortage of honey-gatherers.

One of the greatest draw-backs to stimulative feeding has been that it is a tedious, troublesome job—one in which the greatest care has to be exercised or it will incite robbing. One that when once commenced, has to be kept up until relieved by honey from natural sources.

The easiest and most practical way to stimulate brood rearing that I have ever tried, is by feeding outside the hive in the open air. I lay a few boards on the ground some distance from my hives and feed by pouring the syrup on the boards. Starting at one end of a board I pour as large a stream as will lay on the board without runing off at either side, the whole length of the board, and on to the next, and so on until all the feed is used up. When the bees get the boards cleaned up they are apt to go nosing around, and if there are any weak colonies they are apt to try and clean them out. To prevent this I make one of the feeding boards into a shallow trough by means of narrow strips. In this trough I put about half an inch of chaff. After the bees have gotten the syrup off the top of the chaff they will have to work down through it to get what is left. They will root and turn the chaff over and over, and put in hours getting the little bit of honey out of it. It keeps them busy and diverts their attention from the weaker colonies.

To begin with, I generally use about four ounces of syrup, daily, for every colony in the yard, and gradually increase until it takes about half a pound for each colony. Of course the weaker colonies will not get as much of this feed as the stronger. They will get a ratio in proportion to the number of their gatherers. But all will be stimulated, the stronger building up faster than the weak, will soon have bees and brood to spare to them, and by the time of the honey flow there will not be a colony in the apiary that is not teeming with bees old enough for the fields.

This plan of stimulative feeding originated, I believe, with Mr. R. C. Akin, of Colorado, and was described by him in one of the bee journals (I cannot now recall which one) some two or three years ago.

FACING HIVES.

Don't be too particular about fronting hives in any particular direction. Face them whichever way is most convenient. I have tried facing them in different directions, and I find that hives facing north and west give practically the same results as hives facing south and east.

Sometimes it would seem that the bees would start out a little earlier in the morning from the hives facing south or southeast, than from the others. But they never seemed to be any stronger in bees or brood, or gather a larger amount of surplus than those facing any other direction.

YACOB VETTERSTEIN.

We have in what is known as the Pennsylvania Dutch settlement, an embryo bee-keeper, who gives promise of making a name for himself. According to Mrs. Vetterstein, the boy's mother, "Shakey has two leddle poxes of pees, und he make honey more as a horse could haul. Shakey," she says, "is a shmart poy und he learns about pees like nottings. Mr. Kohlmeyer, who knows effrydings apout pees, tolt Shakey ef somedimes he dond know nottings apout pees, to come ofer und he vill told id to him."

Franklin, Pa.

What fond hopes and pleasant anticipations are awakened by the first sweet hum of spring, and the arrival of the first golden pellets upon the alighting board.

—o—

Contrary to his preconceived notion of the requirements of a successful wintering hive, long and varied experience with both a deep and shallow frame, J. E. Hand has now decided in favor of a frame only 4¼ inches deep. His story is related in Gleanings.

—o—

In the matter of mammoth honey tanks, for which California has always been noted, she is completely outdoing herself this year. We learn by Gleanings that R. Wilkin is storing fourteen tons of honey in a fire-proof, concrete reservoir, awaiting a satisfactory market.

Mr. John Newton.

Written for The American Bee-Keeper,

BY H. E. HILL.

THE subject of this brief sketch, of whom mention was made in our last issue, as one of Canada's rising young apiarists, was born and reared in the town of Woodstock, Ontario, thirteen miles from Thamesford, his present home.

Mr. Newton is in his 31st year, and begun his bee-keeping career in 1882 by engaging with Mr. J. B. Hall as assistant in the widely-known "Woodstock Apiary"—a view of which is also herewith presented—and his success has been no less marked than that of Martin Emigh and Jacob Alpaugh, prominent Canadian bee-keepers of to-day, who graduated from the same honored school.

JOHN NEWTON.

Mr. Newton continued during the seasons of 1883, '84 and '85 to assist Mr. Hall in his apiary work, and during this protracted term of tuition under "the chieftain," an appellation by which

Mr. Hall is known among our bee-keeping cousins over the border, and by virtue of his recognized leadership, and authority in matters apicultural, abundantly merited; John became a proficient bee-master. Subsequently, however, his bee-keeping knowledge was materially diversified by spending one season each with several other leading lights of the province, before establishing his present apiary of about 100 colonies at Thamesford.

Woodstock Apiary 1885

WOODSTOCK APIARY.

It would seem by reason of his versatile genius, Mr. Newton possesses to an unusual degree the qualifications essential to the successful persuit of his chosen vocation in all its various branches. In competing with other exhibitors at Canadian fairs, he is accredited by the Canadian Bee Journal with having been very successful. At the Columbian exposition in Chicago, in 1893, he was awarded a medal and diploma. He has achieved considerable prominence as a manufacturer of foundation. He is an ever-active figure in local association work, and at present holds office as president of the Oxford Bee-Keepers' Association, and at the last meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association at Hamilton, additional honor was conferred by nominating him for government experimentalist in charge of the apiarian branch of the Dominion experimental farm at Ottawa.

In our picture Mr. Newton is seen at the left with smoker in hand. Seated upon a hive at the right is Mr. Hall with the record slate making notes of the conditions found in the hive being manipulated under his instruction by your most humble servant, the writer; who embraced the valued opportunity to spend the season of 1885 in the Woodstock apiary, at which time the picture was taken and my acquaintance with Mr. Newton, which has developed into steadfast friendship, begun.

Mr. Newton was married in June, 1895, to Miss Fannie Ellis, of St. Davids, Ont., and a bright little boy, now in his second year, is the joy and pride of the Newton household.

The first soft maple bloom for 1898 in this locality, opened March 14th.

—o—

The Review says a German text book for bee-keepers has been written by a Mr. Eggers, of Nebraska. The manuscript for still another in the same language by a South Dakota bee-keeper, is on the market.

Notes on Apiary Work.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY S. M. KEELER.

DURING a good honey season we are liable to have some late or after swarms issue, when we would much prefer to have them remain together in one good strong colony. But out they will come, making old and young too small to be of much use.

I have adopted a plan of getting them back so they will stay. This may not be new to some. When hived right back they will not stay there. So I hive them in a temporary box, and the next day, (on the second morning is my choice), run them back. They have then become established as a swarm, and commenced comb-building, so when put back they will take full possession, destroying all queen cells, and are ready for business. I aim to catch all the young unclipped queens at the entrance when the swarm comes out the same as I do the clipped queens. Then I can, if I have hives that need more bees, divide these new swarms and use a portion, or all of them, if need be, to strengthen other swarms, and run those that are left from the box back in their old home with the queen.

Now, if I fail to catch the queen when the swarm comes out, I empty the bees a little back from the entrance, and as they commence marching in, the queen is very soon seen walking right over the top of the mass of moving bees; then I cage her and keep her caged until the swarm is disposed of.

* * *

In the January number of theAmerican Bee-Keeper, Ed. Jolley has apparently given us something well worth knowing. From his experiments in wintering bees, showing early honey to be the proper stores for bees in the cellar, and late fall honey for bees wintered on their summer stands. For some years I have had buckwheat honey for winter stores for my bees. I always winter them on their summer stands, and they invariably go through with little or no loss. Several years ago I sustained a heavy winter loss, and if my memory serves me right, they had early or clover honey for that winter. I contract the brood-nest for the early honey, and enlarge it for the buckwheat flow, so the bees can fill it up for winter in their own good way. I have never had to feed in the fall for winter stores. Now, lest some readers should class buckwheat honey with this late fall honey which Mr. Jolley describes as a "dark, strong and inferior quality of honey," I feel disposed to come to the rescue. Allowing that buckwheat honey may possess the requisite heating quality for winter stores, I consider it, for table use, inferior to none. And very many people prefer it to basswood honey. Buckwheat bloom comes in August, and other fall flowers later.

* * *

To get bees started in the supers at the commencement of the honey flow, I bait with unfinished sections, first leveling them nearly down to the foundation by scratching the cells off with my fingers. I can thus do it very expeditiously, without the use of machinery.

* * *

Steam, to moisten sections when folding them, suits me better than water. I have folded over 1000 sections this winter without breaking one. It takes but little steam, and is easy to do. The water does not need to boil, but should be hot enough so the hot moist vapor will rise from it. I use a pan on the stove for the hot water, and lay the sections across the top of the pan with groves up, so as to moisten the outside. While I am folding one, the next will be ready, and so on, as fast as I can handle them.

* * *

The February number of A. B. K. has just come to hand, bringing the surprise of a new editor in charge. It looks well throughout, so I think we had better accept it as all right. I wish the new editor great success.

Chenango Bridge, N. Y.

Bee-keeping in Old Mexico.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY F. BUSSLER.

HERE in Orizaba, having everlasting spring, the mountains which surround us are filled with black bees, and modern methods are laughed at by the natives. Any kind of old boxes are used as hives, and one can hardly find a bee-keeper who knows anything of the interior life of a hive.

On the plateaus, where the climate is, of course, very different from ours here in the valley, are found accumulations of from 200 to 300 colonies—you would not call them apiaries—which are handled mostly by Indians. Mexicans say that honey is no good for eating, it is too irritating, and they have the bees only for the wax, which is worth from $1.00 to $1.50 a pound.

In the terra caliente (hot lands) one only finds twenty to thirty hives at a time, and these are dwindling away. Of course they talk many superstitious things about bees and their dying off, but I know it is only on account of their carelessness and bee moths. I am sure that Mexico could produce twice the amount of honey that could be produced in the United States.

Some three years ago I saw some bees near here and at once took the "bee fever." I had never kept bees before, being by profession a German gardener, though I am now one of the leading bee-keepers of this section. I have changed the Langstroth hive more to my liking by making the frames shorter and by putting them in crosswise, and am now working hard to have it adopted as a standard here.

I made the first public display of bees and hives ever shown here, at a recent exposition, and took as first prize$100 in cash. I am now keeping the Mexicans awake by writing little articles for El Progresso de Mexico, on bee-keeping. I mostly translate American articles and change them to suit the minds of the readers, just I did the hive, and am also translating an American bee-book into Spanish.

It is only in the most favorable seasons that bee-keeping pays in this locality.

Colonia Mantey, Orizaba, Mexico.

The Farmer and the Market.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY M. W. SHEPHERD.

WHAT an awful pity it is that the scalawag farmer is so heedless of the rules of propriety as to be continually knocking down the price of honey by putting his product of the "busy bee" on the market so inferior in quality and condition. Of course if some great manufacturers of supplies buy honey by the car-load and dump it on the retail market for less money than the small producer can afford to sell for, that might be called philanthropy by some, but the farmer and others who may have a few hundred pounds to sell, look at it in an altogether different light. The farmer goes to town with some pure extracted clover honey, and offers it for sale for eight cents per pound; and the grocer says, "why, look here, I just bought a dozen cans of choice alfalfa honey that came clear from Colorado, (Nevada, California or some other far-away country), and I will sell you, my rustic friend, all your old mare can haul home for six and one-half cents per pound." Clodhopper scratches his head, where hayseed is thickest, and says, "gee whiz! who demoralized this honey market, I wonder?"

The farmer don't scrape the sections. Now that is certainly awful. But I peep into a commission house, and say: Who sent this honey? They tell me, "Mr. So and So; is that not mighty fine?" But I see the sections are not scraped, and I say some farmer bee-keeper sent it in, I presume. "Oh no," is the reply, "it is a man with a hundred or more colonies." Then I get to thinking, and I wonder why the farmers will demoralize the market by selling honey in unscraped section boxes. Now brethren, "be ye not weary in well doing." If you have a ton of honey to sell and you don't get what you think you ought to have for it, look around and see if you can't find a farmer to blame for it. Don't stop and think that if the great producers will only sell good honey and ask a good price, it will come all right. And above all things, don't say the glucose man has cut prices on honey. Lay it to the farmer. What business has he to be a farmer, anyhow?

Mannville, Fla.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

It is now suggested that the next meeting of the U. S. B. K. U. be held at Omaha during the Trans-Mississippi exposition.

—o—

If pollen from natural sources is not available in early spring, whole-wheat or rye flour placed in open vessels in the apiary, will be found a good substitute.

—o—

The bee-keepers' supply factory of the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., of Brantford, Ont., was damaged to the extent of $20,000 by fire on the 3rd ult. Insurance, $19,000.

—o—

A gloomy prospect for the season of '98 now confronts the honey producers of California. The necessary rainfall failed to come this year, as we learn by letter from our old friend A. A. Goetting, of El Casco, one of California's substantial bee-keepers. A nice photographic view of one of Mr. Goetting's apiaries also arrived this week, for which he has our thanks. We will show it to our readers as soon as space will permit.

Bees, small fruits and poultry keeping, make a good combination, and with good management will make a nice living. One advantage is that only a small acreage will be necessary.—Ex.

—o—

E. T. Flanagan, the veteran migratory specialist of the Mississippi valley, is at it again. This time Mr. F. has gone with 300 colonies nearly to the Rio Grande, in Southern Texas, a move of about 1,400 miles from his Southern Illinois home.

—o—

That the bee-keeper who is endowed by nature with the requisites for a good salesman, should quit the producing business and go into dealing in honey, is the gist of several good paragraphs on the marketing question by F. Greiner in Gleanings.

—o—

The report of the Ontario experimental apiary for 1897 strengthens the position of those who advocate early setting out in the spring; showing, as it does, that the earlier activity stimulated by sunshine, results in a corresponding increase of brood.

—o—

The idea of having a ⅞-inch space between the bottom bar and the bottom board, thus compelling the bees to crawl up the sides of the hive with their load of honey, is a measure recommended in poetic language by the Farmers' Voice, to secure well-filled outside sections.

—o—

Dr. Miller detects a vein of inconsistency in our awarding the single-colony championship to the "flowery peninsula," in the face of the greater yield reported from the "lone star," as stated in the February Bee-Keeper. One is authentic, plausible and accepted. The other is said by our esteemed contemporary, through which we are criticised, speaking upon authority of those in a position to know, to be overdrawn, "padded." See?

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EDITORIAL.

With due appreciation and gratitude we note the numerous well-wishes and kindly criticisms of our readers and brother editors that have come to our table.

"The New York State Association of Bee-Keepers' Societies," organized at Geneva, N. Y., March 16, is the latest development in co-operative work among honey producers. A copy of the new association's constitution, from Secretary Harry S. Howe, reaches us just as we go to press.

A nice article of maple sugar put on the market this year by a Vermont company, has upon the wrapper of each one-pound cake, an extract from the Vermont state laws, approved Nov. 13, 1890, regarding the increase of penalty for the adulteration of maple sugar and "bees' honey," and the purity of their goods is guaranteed under forfeiture of $1,000. Such measures beget public interest in pure food, and many shippers of extracted honey would profit by emulating the example.

POSITION OF COMBS IN MOVING.

A label upon which is printed a hand having the index finger extended, and the words, "load with the finger pointing to the bow, locomotive or horse," has long been used in shipping packages containing combs of honey. The shipper, of course, places this sticker on the hive, shipping case, or whatever the article may be, with the finger running parallel with the combs. In criticising this feature of the sticker, which gives also other instructions for handling, Dr. Miller, in Gleanings, remarks:

"The finger ought to point to bow or locomotive, but hardly to horse, unless the horse walks besides wagon." The majority of country roads will, doubtless, justify the doctor's premises; which, however, will not stand, according to our experience, if the moving is to be done over several miles of well-worn corduroy.

Why "it ought to point to bow," we do not know, either. In sea-going ships it can make no difference as to the position of the combs; owing to the variable, easy motion of such great weight upon the waves. With smaller craft, though injury to combs by any motion of the boat is highly improbable at any time, it would be impossible to fix any stated rule for loading that would render the chances for safety any greater, in a general way. A short sail boat with good beam, running under close-haul, or on the wind, would carry combs easier if stowed fore-and-aft. In loading a steam, or other small motor boat, however, having less bearings, under the same conditions of weather, the reverse position should be adopted in loading.

The innumerable models and rigs, varying weather and peculiarities of navigable waters, as well as the different methods of handling by each captain, are all factors which render such a rule entirely worthless. If brevity is desirable, strike out the nautical command. Aren't we right, ex-Tar Leahy?

NO-WALL FOUNDATION.

A machine to manufacture foundaion, having no sidewall at all,has been rought out by the Michigan State Bee-Keepers' association, and a number of he members have given the product ractical tests with gratifying results. Foundation running sixteen square feet o the pound is said to hold its position n the section. By its use the "gobby" hewing quality of melted wax, found n comb honey produced on heavier oundation, is removed, giving practially a comb of natural delicacy, being eadily accepted and entirely worked ver by the bees. We have never been ble to produce an uniformly straight set of combs on very light foundation. Especially during a light flow of honey, when the work of drawing out the sidewalls would progress more rapidly on ne side than upon the other, the tenency of the septum to warp and curl way from the deepest cells, was very bjectionable. It is possible that the ddition of new wax, in working the ew no-wall foundation, instead of hinning and drawing out the wax conained in the ordinary style, may obiate this objection to the use of very ight sheets.

The extent of the advantage to be gained through the use of such extra hin foundation must necessarily be deermined by at least an approximate olution of the honey cost of wax seretion.

The new product is the invention of T. F. Bingham, of smoker fame.

EDUCATING THE DEALER.

One of the neglected duties of the honey producer is that of instructing he dealer in the care of their products. Store-keepers, as a rule, are as slow to acquire a general knowledge of honey and proper methods of handling it, as are the public to recognize its merits as an article of diet and its medicinal uses. Indeed, both conditions are doubtless to some extent the result of his neglect; a matter worthy of more than a passing thought by those whose livelihood depends upon the sale of honey, and is of proportionate moment to those with whom bee-keeping is but an avocation from which they expect profitable returns.

Upon every shipping case sent out should be pasted printed instructions, full and explicit, for the care of comb honey; with an explanation of the results that will surely follow any violation of the specified rules. This duty is imperative until such times, at least, as the average dealer shall have learned that comb honey and cabbage require different methods of treatment in handling, to insure success in both cases.

A single day's experience during the past winter will serve to illustrate the prevalent ignorance of dealers regarding honey. We chanced to step into a well-stocked grocery in a Pennsylvania town. It was very cold, and directly in front of the door, at the farthest possible point from the stove, stood a large glass case in which were nicely displayed probably 200 sections of honey. The prominence of this display was a souce of great interest, and soon became the subject of conversation, affording the opportunity to compliment the dealer on his evident good taste, etc. That ashen pallor, indicating granulation, was showing itself upon the cappings of many sections. "Yes, that's the greatest trouble in handling honey," remarked the urbane merchant, "it will candy; and you see I keep it in the coldest place in the house, too." In all his years of handling honey he had never before heard that it should be stored in a warm, dry place. The information was received graciously and with evident gratitude.

Passing down the street about two blocks, the most novel display of honey we have ever seen, loomed up in front of a grocer's shop. A pyramid of 3½x5x1½ No. 1 sections graced the street display upon the sidewalk. Freezing like Klondike, and comb honey turned out of doors! We learned that the proprietor had been handling honey for about sixteen years, and he "always thought the colder the better for honey." He thanked us kindly for the suggestions we made free to offer regarding the care of honey, and promptly pulled in the display.

Calling upon still another groceryman we noticed upon the shelves a number of one-pound tin cans, upon which in red letters the word "honey" was very prominent. A closer inspection showed the label to read, "Blossom Brand, Pure California Honey." "Pure California honey, eh?" was our spontaneous query.

"Well, that's what I bought it for, but I opened a can to show to a customer some time ago, and it had all turned back to sugar, so I haven't recommended it since then," was the reply.

Now, all this dealer "pretended to ask" for the questionable mixture was twenty cents a pound, so we bought one of the little cans and sampled the contents on the spot; and a more perfectly delicious sample of pure black sage honey we never tasted. Upon removing the cover the aroma itself brought to mind craggy mountain slopes clad with clumps of greasewood and sage brush, and of bygone days of lonely bachelorhood in remote cannon apiaries of the "Sunset State." Yet, by no possible elasticity or distortion of conscience, could this provision vender feel to recommend it to his trade.

It really seems to us that this neglect of producers has been one great barrier in the way of progress in the development of the market.

A small tent made of muslin or other light material, that may be handled conveniently, is an essential part of the apiary equipment. Though its uses are numerous, it will be found particularly servicable to set over the hive being manipulated when robbers are troublesome.

KEEPING A RECORD.

Just now as we are entering upon another season of active apiary work, seems a fitting time to indulge our inclination to say a few words regarding colony records.

That our idea of the importance of some efficient system of recording notes in the apiary is not commonly shared by bee-keepers, is shown by its entire absence in many bee-yards, and, indeed, some such yards have every appearance of being well cared for; yet, with us, owing to our early training, perhaps, such satisfactory results from this memory, or guess-work manner of doing business, could not be even hoped for.

The use of books is open to the objections of being soiled by propolis and honey in handling, as well as the ease with which they are blown away by every breeze, when exposed. The manilla register serves only to indicate the stage of progress in the development of the queen at the time of the last visit, and is in no sense a colony record. Sticks, stones, sand piles, tomato cans, etc., placed upon the hives is a popular method in mountain apiaries of California, which has been adopted in a modified form by substituting oyster and clam shells in many sea-board apiaries of the east. The various positions of the entrance blocks, and many other imperfect methods, might be mentioned, which would impart to the reader nothing of practical value.

Perhaps the most efficient method in general use is a small slate, about 1½x2 inches, though its very limited capacity for notes to a large degree defeats the purpose for which it is designed.

The system employed in the Woodstock apiary, shown in this number of The Bee-Keeper, is to have a framed slate about 4x6 inches attached by straps to the back of each hive. Each queen has a slate, and that slate follows her through life, with a note of every event, feature and peculiarity connected with her history. It sometimes occurs that one slate will contain a record of two or three generations, which is made possible by the use of abbreviations and signs requiring but little space.

We have made use of this system for a number of years, and have doubtless varied the original style of abbreviating, which we there learned, so that it would not be recognized by Mr. Hall; yet the following contractions, etc., of a few imaginary notes convey a meaning as clearly as though written in full, and will serve to illustrate the idea. Though each bee-keeper may make deductions, additions and general changes to suit his individual bee-vocabulary:

Jones				A 1	Box.	C Q '96

96 | Jun. 15 Sd | 21 Pg mvd | 23 cls dsd S V | 30 egs
Jy 10 clpd | 15 on U S | Aug 20 OK | Sept 24 off US,
out 3 frs H, OK | Nov 10 pkd, OK |
97 Apr 4 Bs on 5, H | 22 bd in 4, Con to 6, DN | May
24 gv 2 MT cbs, SQ | Jun 8 OK | 16 on Sup | 24 do |
Jy 4 Sup on tp | 10 put tp Sup below | 24 off 2 comp
A1 | 28 off Sup comp | 30 out 1 fr H do 2 frs bd&Bs,
in 3 MT cbs | Oct 10 OK |

The squares at the top are for general notes. Particularly such as one might desire to consult hurriedly, and having no direct reference to the work; though it is to some extent an epitome of that which follows. Thus: The original stock is designated by "Jones." Comb honey qualities A.1. Clipped queen hatched June 1896.

In "plain English" the following notes are: Swarmed June 15th, 1896. June 21st piping. Removed. June 23rd cells destroyed, saw virgin queen. June 30 eggs. July 10th clipped the queen. July 15th on upper story. August 20th everything is "all right." September 24th took off the upper story, and also took out three frames of honey. November 10th packed for winter. April 4th, 1897, bees on five combs, and they have plenty of honey. April 22nd, they have brood in four combs, we contracted them to six combs but did not see the queen. May 24th, we gave them two empty combs and saw the queen. June 8th, "all right." June 16th, we gave them a super. June 24th, gave another super. July 4th, placed another super on top. July 10th, we put the top super below. July 24th, we took off two completed supers of fancy honey. July 28th, took off another complete. July 30th, we took out one frame of honey and two frames of brood and bees, and replaced them with three empty combs. Oct. 10th, "All right," again.

This is not given as an example of proper management, but to illustrate our method of keeping a record.

COMB BUILDING IN THE OPEN AIR

E. T. Flanagan tells in the Progressive Bee-Keeper of seeing a colony of bees established in the open air, near New Orleans. They had nine combs suspended from the limbs of a magnolia tree, and had been doing business there about five months. In tropical countries it is not very unusual to see colonies thus exposed to the weather, and even as far north as Pennsylvania a similar instance has come within our experience.

In September, '96, being regarded as the "bee man" of the town, our services were earnestly solicited to hive a swarm which a resident said had "come to him." Upon investigation we were surprised to find that the swarm had been several weeks hanging in the dense top of a maple shade tree, and had several large combs. Though they had lost their queen, probably in mating, they were holding the fort with laying workers and about three pounds of bees. It was rather an awkward task, yet to please our newly acquired and deeply interested friend, they were put into a hive, and more bees, queen and honey secured to put them in condition for the winter. The result is, we have another bee-keeper in town, and he has at present quite a nice little apiary.

Some years ago, while engaged in buying odd colonies and small apiaries of the natives on the south coast of

Cuba, we remember being very much interested in one of these fresh air colonies. In that country bees are kept in hollow palm logs, not as they are sometimes used in the states, in an upright position, but are left entirely open at both ends, and lay horizontally, like a fallen tree.

This colony, which attracted our attention in particular, had extended its combs beyond the end of their crude, native hive, into a clump of shrubbery, fully two feet from the log. It was in January, and the vines of the honey-yielding campanilla were entwined in every direction through the snow-white combs of glistening honey, and their beautiful bell-shaped flowers, resembling a small, white morning-glory, hung in such profusion about the cluster of busy workers that they would often impede their flight, and the sudden jarring of the tiny floral bell by coming in contact with a homeward-bound worker, would startle another gatherer that was deeply interested in sipping the nectar within.

Another illustration of the bee's marvelous instinct was also presented in this instance. The field force were on duty and the shady spots and side of the combs were left almost without a guard; large slabs of virgin comb, weighted with unsealed honey were exposed to plain view, yet a ray of sunshine was not permitted to fall upon it. Solid clusters of the black Castilians would glisten at every point where the sun was in range.

If by any means this protection had been removed, these combs would not have withstood the force of that tropical sun for ten minutes.

Mr. Doolittle's writings show conclusively that he is not "carried away" with the plain section, as some others of the fraternity seem to be. A four-piece nailed section is still used in his apiary; yet we do not know of another man in the United States who makes a small apiary pay as big as does Mr. D.

E. R. Root inclines to the belief that the reported cures of foul brood by the use of salicylic acid, were cases where genuine foul brood did not exist; but instead, another disease of very similar appearance known as "pickled brood," which though destructive lacks the malignant quality of foul brood, and will in time disappear of its own accord. We have had a very limited experience with both of these maladies, and think there is much to confirm Mr. Root's conclusion.

As a result of the food congress held at Washington Mar. 2 a national pure food law is pretty well assured. Eugene Secor and E. T. Abbott, appointed as delegates from the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, were placed on all the important committees, and bee-keeping received full recognition. Mr. Abbott, in a letter to Gleanings, says: "We got all we asked for, and I do not think the industry was ever before so thoroughly identified with other industries of the community." That's the idea, exactly. It takes a national organization to grapple successfully with national questions. Let us foster, encourage and support the U. S. B. K. U.

The present primitive methods of marketing honey, to which we have frequently referred; and which Mr. Theilmann says are the same as those of fifty or one hundred years ago, it would seem prevail universally. Hear Wm. McNally, in the British Bee-Keepers' Record: "As years roll on, and I get older in the bee business, the more I become convinced that the honey trade of this country (the British Isles) would become of more national importance if carried through on business lines, more especially as to selling the crop. There is such an unbusiness-like method of dealing with, and want of uniformity in disposing of the article that nothing short of co-operation amongst bee-keepers can put the trade on a sound basis."

Mr. Doolittle estimates that if one-fourth of the bee-keepers of America were to adopt the plain section, the necessary change in supers, separators, etc., would involve an expense of $1,000,000. Editor Root off-sets this with the claim that if a like proportion were to use but 5,000 plain sections each at a reduction of twenty-five cents per 1,000 that a saving of $1,200,000 would result.

By a recent letter from Fred L. Craycraft, of Havana, Cuba, we learn that amid the rumblings of war he is still extending his business there by establishing out apiaries; and that he will extract from over 1,000 colonies next season. Fred L. is one of the American boys who have made a success of bee-keeping, and he knows by years of experience in Cuba just what her capabilities are in the line of honey production. Readers of The American Bee-Keeper will hear more of Mr. Craycraft in the future.

Can Insects Talk?

THIS may, indeed, seem a strange question to those who would limit the meaning of the word to the capability of expressing ideas by means of articulate sounds, nevertheless, a little reflection will convince anyone who is conversant with the habits of these creatures that, though they may have no tongues, they can express themselves in some way or other "with most miraculous organ."

Various experiments might be quoted in proof of this. Let us, however, select one or two which seem to leave no room for dispute about the matter. Any one who finds himself in the vicinity of an ant's nest may soon be convinced that these industrious little laborers are by no means destitute of the power of communicating information to each other relative to the affairs of their commonwealth.

Let him, for example, place a heap of food in the vicinity of the ant hill and watch the proceedings of its inmates. A short time will probably elapse before the discovery of the treasure, but at length some wanderer, in his morning's ramble, has the good fortune to stumble upon it. What does he do? He does not, like an isolated individual, incapable of asking for assistance, begin at once the task of removing the heap, but, on the contrary, off he scampers with the glad intelligence, and, running his head against that of every ant he meets, manages in some mysterious way, not only to intimate the fact of the discovery, but also to give information relative to the locality where the provisions may be found, for speedily it will be seen that troops of porters, summoned at the call of the first finder, hasten to the spot, and all is activity and bustle until the store is safely warehoused in the ant hill.

Another still more striking instance of the possession of a capability of spreading intelligence, and that of a somewhat obstruse character, is furnished by experiments that have been made by Huber and others upon bees. Every one is aware that the queen bee is an object of the greatest solicitude to all the workers of the hive, and yet among so many thousands, all busily employed in different and distant parts of the colony, it would appear impossible for them to ascertain, at least before the lapse of a considerable time, whether she was absent from among them or not.

In order to see whether bees had any power of conveying news of this kind, the queen bee has been stealthily and quietly abstracted from the hive, but here, as elsewhere, ill news was found to fly apace. For some half hour or so the loss seemed not to have been ascertained, but the progressively increasing buzz of agitation announced the growing alarm, until shortly the whole hive was in an uproar, and all its busy occupants were seen pouring forth their legions in search of their lost monarch, or eager to avenge with their stings the insult offered to their sovereign. On restoring the captured queen to her subjects with equal secrecy the tumult speedily subsided, and the ordinary business of the community was resumed as before the occurrence.—Exchange.

"Food Value of Honey," is the title of a neat little folder of fourteen pages compiled by Dr. C. C. Miller; published by the A. I. Root Co. As an educator, bee-keepers should use it liberally to build up local trade. There is no doubt as to its doing the work, if it were only given the circulation. We will furnish them with your name and address neatly printed on each, as a premium for getting new subscribers for The American Bee-Keeper.

During the recent rush of business in the supply trade, which necessitates running our factory to a late hour each night to keep up with orders, numerous inquiries are also coming in for queens and bees. As we do not deal in these, we can only refer our inquiring friends to the advertising columns of our journal. Queen breeders and others should keep in mind the significant combination; first, the wise words of Kate E. Griswold: "Advertising is a honey-comb, which holds in it the sweets of business success," and secondly, the wide circulation of The Bee-Keeper throughout the eastern states. Now is the time to advertise queens and bees.

The publishers of The American Bee-Keeper, the W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co., Jamestown, N. Y., are among the largest manufacturers of bee-keepers' supplies in the world, and they make almost everything used in the pursuit such as Hives, Sections, Extractors, Smokers, etc. The workmanship is always of superior merit and quality of material unsurpassed, in fact, seldom equalled. Their customers hail from every country where bees are kept by scientific methods, and they are just now enjoying not only a very large home trade, but have on hand several large foreign orders. The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co. have been doing business for many years and have built up their large business by treating their customers fairly and in a business-like manner, so that each customer is satisfied and returns to them again when in want of anything in their line. If you have not received one of their large illustrated catalogs and price lists for this year, send your name to them on a postal card.—Their prices will be found to be right.

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Boston, Mass., Feb. 22, 1898.—Fair demand for honey. Ample supply. Extracted 5 to 6c per lb. Good demand for beeswax. No supply. Prices 28c. for pure stock. Price of comb honey, fancy white, in cartons, A No. 1 white 13c. No. 1 white 10 to 11c. No. 2, 8 to 9c. per lb.

Blake, Scott & Lee,
57 Chatham Street.

Cincinnati, O., Mar. 21, 1898.—The demand for extracted honey is fair, with short supply. Price, 4 to 6c. Slow demand for comb 10 to 13c. Good demand for beeswax with a fair supply. Prices, 20to 25c. for good to choice yellow.

Chas. F. Muth & Son,
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Detroit, Mich., Mar. 22, 1898.—Slow demand for honey, with good supply of lower grades. Price of light comb, 9 to 11c.; dark. 7 to 9c. Good demand for beeswax, with light supply. Prices 26 to 27c per lb. The better grades of honey will be nearly all used up in a short time, but there will be considerable undesirable goods carried over.

M. H. Hunt,
Bell Branch, Mich.

Kansas City, Mo., Mar. 21, 1898.—Light demand for honey. Good supply. Price of comb, 8 to 10c. per lb. Extracted, 4½ to 5½c. per lb. Good demand for beeswax, with light supply, at 22 to 25c. per lb.

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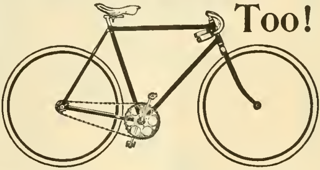

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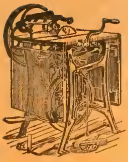

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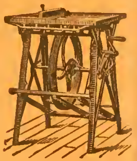

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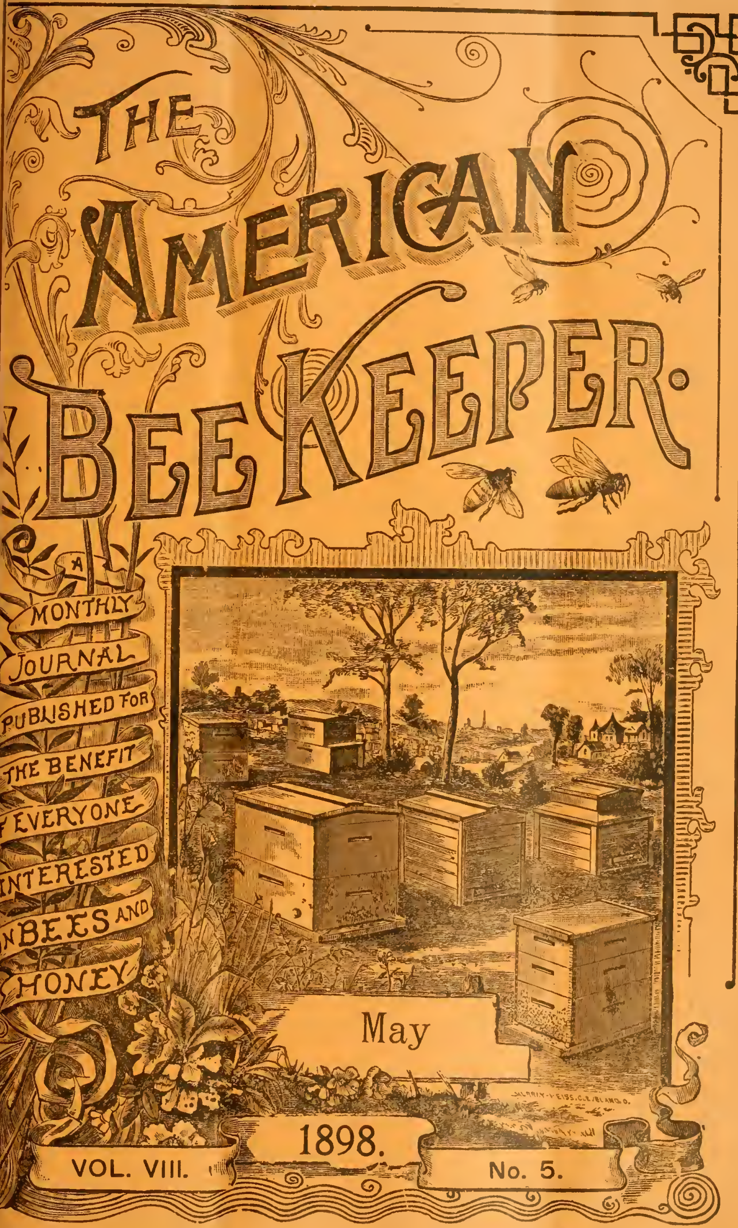

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE INTERESTED IN BEES AND HONEY

May

1898.

VOL. VIII.

No. 5.

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The Bee-Keepers' Review

Made substantial improvements with the beginning of the present year. It is printed on heavy, white book paper, from large, clear, new type, and has a cover of heavy cream, paradox paper printed in that warmest of all colors--claret. With each number there is also a frontispiece of some subject connected with bee-keeping, printed on heavy ivory enameled paper, These pictures are all half-tones made from photographs. That of December showed a comb badly infected with foul brood. January showed eight sections of comb honey, four of them in the old style of sections and four in the plain style. It is an object lesson worth seeing. The one for February shows a beautiful view of an out-apiary in the wilds of Wisconsin, a really picturesque view. March frontispiece is a scene in a sugar-maple forest in Michigan. So much by the way of mechanical improvements; but it is more difficult to describe the information it contains. Perhaps the best that can be said is that never before has there been so much pains taken to secure the best of correspondence—to get the views and experiences of the very best bee-keepers.

The price of the Review is $1.00 per year, but if you prefer to know still more about it before subscribing, send ten cents in either stamps or silver, and three late but different issues will be sent you. These will give you a fair idea of the Review, and, if you then wish to subscribe, the ten cents that you have sent may apply on your subscription. A coupon will be sent entitling you to the Review one year for 90 cents if sent in during 1898.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. MAY, 1898. No. 5.

THE ITALIAN BEE.

Its Natural Adaptability to Varying Conditions.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,

BY J. B. CASE.

BEES differ in characteristics and require different management. Many bee-keepers condemn certain races of bees as being inferior to others, without considering that perhaps, their system, or want of system, of management is such, that they are trying to force the bees to do something which, perhaps, nature has been opposing for centuries in the locality in which their progenators were bred.

A dairyman selects the breed or grade of cows most valuable to him for the line of business he expects to follow. If he desires to sell milk he selects a milk breed; if he expects to make a specialty of butter-making he selects with that end in view. But a stockman selects for beef. After the selection, to obtain the best results, the characteristics of the selected breed must be studied and the environments, care, feed, etc., must be suited as far as possible to the habits of the breed chosen. Instead of trying to enforce the fancy bred animals to adapt themselves to unfavorable surroundings, everything possible is done to adapt the surroundings to the habits of the particular breed of animals he has chosen. And so with poultry. The Leghorns in a cold climate, must be warmly housed and given the most careful attention to be profitable, while the heavy feathered fowls are not so well suited to a warm climate as are the Leghorns, and need a different care.

The Cyprians were generally discarded as they were too cross. The so-called "Holy Land" bees were not as satisfactory as were the Italian, and were soon only a memory in most yards. The black and the Italian bees with their crosses, have been more widely tested than any others. Langstroth, Quinby, L. C. Root and thousands of other careful, conscientious bee-keepers, commenced bee-keeping with black bees. and, by careful comparisons with the Italian, decided that the latter were the most satisfactory and profitable, all things considered. A few claim the blacks as better in some respects; while many aver that the first cross hybrids are superior to either race, or to any yet tested; while still others find points of superiority in Carniolans, or different strains of Italians, such as "dark," "albino," "golden," etc.

Bee-keepers differ in training, in habits. manner of doing things; some are quick in movement, others slow, some delight in having everything as nice as possible, others are careless; in fact almost all kinds of people are found keeping bees; from the specialist to those who keep a few colonies for amusement. In the ranks of bee-keepers are found some with thousands of colonies, many with hundreds, more with less than one hundred.

When we also consider the difference in altitude and latitude, that the United States are about 2,800 miles from east to west and 1,600 miles from north to south, with mountains, hills, plains and valleys; soil from barren to fertile, climate from hot to cold, dry to wet and with almost every combination of soil, rainfall, season and flora, it seems as though the bee that would prove the most profitable in all the above conditions would be a perfect one, with no faults, and leaving nothing more to be desired.

Again, some produce box honey while others bend all their energies to the production of extracted. In some sections a light flow precedes the main harvest and the bees are done swarming before the main honey flow comes on. Another section is very poor in the early season, and then comes a heavy flow of honey and the bees swarm and swarm until the apiarist is in dispair. A few miles away there may be a light, almost continuous flow during the season. In some parts the main crop of honey is gathered early in the season; other parts give only a late crop. Some bee-keepers can count reasonably sure on two crops with a dearth between. And so it goes in endless variation.

When we consider variations in climate; the different kinds of location; the uncertainty of the honey flow; the various systems of management, and the climatic conditions that are liable at any time to upset our best plans, it seems almost wonderful that the majority of bee-keepers have decided that the Italians are best suited for all purposes. It shows that they have sterling qualities and are almost as capable of adapting themselves to their surroundings as man himself.

It is true that in some locations, and in some seasons, hybrids have given the best results, but they are uncertain. Some are extra good workers; some are very poor; while their temper is very unpleasant to say the least. The writer believes that by a little change of management the Italian may in nearly, perhaps all, locations, prove superior to hybrids. Especially so when we consider that at times hybrids are almost uncontrollable, and even at times dangerous in a community.

A gentle Jersey cow would be ruined for a time, if not for life, if whipped, chased by dogs and brutally treated; while a scrub cow would take abuse as a matter of course, and so with a fine blooded horse. A hybrid colony of bees will stand an amount of smoke that will nearly smother an Italian colony. They (Italians and hybrids) require different treatment, and I, for one, prefer to get along with as little smoke and as few stings as possible, especially when the majority claim the Italians as superior, and my experience agrees with the majority.

How I Started in Bee-keeping.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT says he is about starting in bee-keeping, reads the American Bee-Keeper, and that he wishes I would tell through its columns how I started, thinking it would be interesting to the readers. Well, with the editor's permission, I might say a few words on this subject, although it might not be as profitable as an article on some other subject.

When about sixteen years old, while boiling sap one day in the fore part of April, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon I got a little lonesome, so placing a good lot of large wood in the fire, so that the sap would be kept boiling for some time, I started off for a neighboring sugar camp, about a mile distant. As I neared the camp I stopped for a moment to see if the owner was in the woods anywhere gathering sap, as I did not see him near the sugar house or boiling place. As I stood listening and looking for him, I thought I heard the hum of bees, and upon looking up into the tree tops all around me, I presently saw the bees taking their first flight in the spring, as this was the first really warm day, from a hole in a large basswood tree, some seventy feet from the ground. When I found the owner I showed him what I had found, and he kindly told me that I had better put my initials on the tree to keep any other party who might chance to find it from cutting it. He also said that I had better let it remain till the coming fall, when he would help me cut it for what honey he could eat. I felt proud of my find and grateful to the owner for being so kind to me. On going back I resolved that the next pleasant day I would go all through those woods looking for bees, which I did a few days afterward, and to my satisfaction I found another colony, the tree of which was marked in like manner with the first. Since then I have found many other colonies in trees, by simply passing through woods on warm days in early spring. As there are no leaves on the trees at this time of the year to bother, it is an easy matter to look into every tree which may have the appearance of being hollow, and if you keep the tree between you and the sun, looking a little below the sun will reveal the bees quite readily by the flashing of their wings in the sunshine; while trees having bees in them can often be found by looking on the snow for dead bees which are carried out and dropped on the first warm days. The two trees spoken of were cut the last of September, and from these we obtained about 100 pounds of honey, I dividing with the neighbor.

During the following winter I saw an advertisement in a paper regarding a certain book which would tell how to hunt bees, and as I was now anxious to find bees I sent for it. The book proved to be the "Bee-Keepers Text Book," and treated largely on the management of bees, for which I then had little desire. Six years later in hunting over an old closet, I came across this book, and as I saw the preface was short I read it, as I generally read the preface to any book first. I at once wanted to know all there was in the book, and sat down fairly spellbound till the last page was read. I at once decided to have some bees in the spring (this was in January, 1869) and accordingly I engaged two colonies of a box-hive bee-keeper, for five dollars each. I also purchased "Quinby's Mysteries of Bee-Keeping," and read and re-read it till I could tell the substance of the whole book to any one who would talk bees, I was so interested in the matter. Then I subscribed for the American Bee Journal, which was about the only bee paper of those days. When spring opened I got my bees home, bought five Langstroth hives all complete, for $12.50, and thought myself fully equipped for the season. Every time the bees would fly I could hardly keep away from them, and on cold days in April and May I would go and tip up the hives to see the bees clustered between the combs. In short, I wanted to be with them constantly, (and haven't got over that part yet,) and yet, withal, I had a great fear of them stinging me, as my flesh always swelled very badly when stung—so much so that I was often confined to the house from my eyes being swollen shut, or an arm or a limb being so badly swollen that I could not use it. For this reason I always bundled up well if I went near the bees when they were flying.

As it came near the swarming season, I remembered what Quinby said in his book about being able to tell when the bees would swarm by inverting the hive in the middle of the day, and with a little smoke driving the bees out of the way, so that the sun might shine down between the combs, thus revealing any queen cells that might be starting on them. Not wishing to keep watch of the bees all the while, I thought I would try my success in ascertaining this matter. So I bundled up with coat and mittens and veil and prepared for the siege.

I often wonder that I persisted in working with the bees when I was so afraid of them. But this must be done, taking stings patiently, if success must be ours. After getting stung pretty badly several times, I found that each time the pain and swelling grew less and less, till I finally dropped all but the veil, which I still wear, as a general rule, when working with the bees.

To return: With "fear and trembling" I blew a little smoke under the hive, and inverted it, blowing smoke from a roll of rags (no improved smokers then) upon the bees, and to my surprise I found queen cells nearly ready to seal over. In a day or two this hive cast a swarm which was safely run into one of the Langstroth hives. That was the only swarm of the season, as 1869 was the poorest season I have ever known for bees. I now had a swarm in a frame hive, and these I would manipulate every few days till I became familiar as to how the combs were built, the larva fed, the time from the egg to the perfect bee, etc., all of which every bee-keeper should be thoroughly acquainted with at the outset.

To shorten up. In the fall I had one full box of honey (six pound boxes were the smallest then in use) and two partly-filled from the colony which did not swarm, and three colonies of bees, to which I fed $5.00 worth of sugar to insure safe wintering, as the season was so poor that most colonies not fed starved before spring. Honey was so scarce that year, that I was offered 50 cents per pound for the completed box I obtained, and the few who had honey to sell reaped a rich harvest. I bought another colony in the fall and had another given me which had no honey. This I fed, and a taking of account showed an outlay of $35.00, with nothing to show for it except the one box of honey, two partly filled, and four empty hives, with five colonies of bees to run my chances on through the winter. Infatuated with the bees as I was, I now resolved that I would never lay out a single cent more on them, unless they first earned it for me; believing that if I could not make five pay I could not five hundred. This resolve I stood by, so that my bees never cost me more than the $35.00, and have earned me my home of thirty acres, all the buildings on it, all the machinery and conveniences in them, all I now have to enjoy, and something laid aside for old age, besides paying their way.

Borodino, N. Y.

New York State Association of Bee-Keepers' Societies,

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY HARRY S. HOWE.

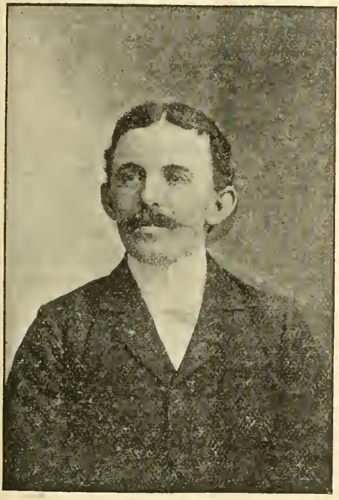
THE bee-keepers of this state have for a long time been asking for some recognition of the value of their industry to other branches of agriculture; for the same protection against adulteration that is accorded other food products; and for freight rates the same as other commodities of similar value and similar methods of packing; but in most cases they have asked in vain, because they could only speak as individuals, or at best as the representative of some local organization.

Recognizing this fact, a call was issued by a committee from the local societies for a meeting of delegates from the local societies of the state at Geneva, N. Y., March 16th, to discuss ways and means.

As a result it was decided to organize a State Association of Bee-Keepers' Societies

It is hoped that by acting as a unit we may be able to accomplish much of value to the bee-keepers that could not be effected otherwise, and that we may secure a standing in the state that will entitle us to be heard the same as the other special industries.

We feel that the value of our products, as well as the value of our industry to the horticulturist and the farmer, entitle us to the same protection to the purity of our products that is given to the producer of vinegar; to the same protection to the lives of our bees from poison that is given to dogs and cats; that honey shall not be adulterated nor the bees poisoned without adequate punishment.



H. S. HOWE, SEC'Y N. Y. S. A., B. K. S.

We earnestly hope that all bee-keepers will unite with us to secure these and other benefits that can only be secured by co-operation.

The following is a copy of the constitution drafted and adopted by the Association at Geneva:

Article I.—Constitution.

Name—This organization shall be known and designated as the New York State Association of Bee-Keepers' Societies.

Art. II.—Place of Meeting.

The Association shall meet annually on the second Wednesday of January at Geneva, N. Y.

Art. III.—Object.

By association and co-operation of the various Bee-Keepers' Societies in the State of New York, to secure a state bee-keepers' organization that is systematic, representative and vigilant; to devise ways to promote measures that are of general interest to the bee-keepers of the state; to encourage the organization of local co-operative societies in every county in the state; to demonstrate and impress upon the public the importance and value of the industry, and to demand and dictate legislation effecting the industry.

Art. IV.—Officers.

Sec. 1. The officers of this society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and an Advisory Board, consisting of the President of each affiliating society.

Term of Office.

Sec. 2. They shall hold their offices for one year, and until their successors are elected and have accepted the office.

Art. V.—Revenue.

Any Bee-Keepers society in the state may become a member of this Association by paying an annual membership fee of two dollars, and no society will be allowed to participate in the affairs of the Association until their dues are paid.

Art. VI.—Funds.

The funds of the Association shall be used to pay the legitimate expenses of the Association, and for any purpose not inconsistent with the intent and purpose of the Association when approved by the Executive Committee.

Art. VII.—Election of Officers.

The President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee. They shall be elected by a majority ballot at the annual meeting of the Association and shall assume the duties of their respective offices immediately upon the close of such meeting. The Advisory Board shall be chosen by their respective societies in such manner as they may select.

Art. VIII.—Representation.

Each society that has complied with the conditions of the constitution shall be entitled to two votes and two delegates who, before being seated, shall present proper credentials. Any and all members of affiliating societies shall be admitted to the privilege of the floor, but only those who are duly accredited delegates or their proxies are entitled to vote.

Art. IX.—Duties of Officers.

Sec. 1. President—It shall be the duty of the President to superintend all matters of the Association; to preside at the meetings; to call meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Advisory Board, through the Secretary, and to perform such other duties as may devolve upon the presiding officer.

Sec. 2. Vice President—In the absence of the President the Vice President shall perform the duties of that office.

Sec. 3. Secretary-Treasurer—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call the names of the societies; to receive the annual dues and the credentials of their respective delegates at the opening of each meeting: to report all proceedings of the Association, and to record the same; to conduct the general correspondence of the Association; to file and preserve all papers belonging to the same; at the close of his term of office to transfer all money and papers belonging to the Association to his successor in office; to pay out the funds of the Association only upon vouchers signed by the President; to render a written report of all receipts and expenditures at each annual meeting, and to perform such other duties as properly belong to such office or by direction of the President or the Advisory Board.

Sec. 4 Advisory Board—The Advisory Board shall, by conference and cooperation, assist the President, and carry out the plans of the organization, and have in charge propositions for legislative action not otherwise committed to the charge of special committees; to do and perform all acts not inconsistent with the intent and purpose of the Association; to fill all vacancies that may occur. The President of this Association is to be the chairman of the Board ex-officio.

Art. X.—Compensation.

No officer of the Association shall receive compensation for services except such compensation be fixed previous to the rendition of such service by resolution duly adopted and recorded.

Art. XI.—Special Meetings.

Upon the petition of a majority of the Advisory Board the President shall call a special convention of the Association.

Art. XII.—Amendments.

This constitution may be amended by a majority vote at any annual convention of the Association.

Art. XIII.—Quorum.

One-half of the number of delegates entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the meetings of the Association.

Honey from Basswood, Etc.

Written for The American Bee-Keeper,

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes me to answer the following questions through the columns of the American Bee-Keeper: First, I am thinking of moving my bees the coming summer several miles to where there is an abundance of basswood, hoping to secure a greater yield of honey than I at present receive, as I have no basswood in my immediate vicinity. What do you think of the idea? Second, are not the blossom buds formed on the basswood trees a few weeks previous to the time of their opening, so I can know by this whether there is a prospect of honey from that source in time to make preparations for moving? Third. Are there any seasons when basswood blossoms in profusion, when there is no honey yield from it?

In answering the first question I would say that the plan is a good one and I can see nothing against it, except the expense. I believe basswood to be the greatest honey producer in the world. In fact, no report has ever been given (if I am correct) where 20 pounds per day has been stored for 30 days in succession, by a single colony, except from basswood. Such a report can be found in the back volumes of the American Bee Journal; and I had a single colony that did fully as well for ten days, the same giving 66 pounds in three days. If the cost of moving the bees need not be greater than $1.00 per colony, I should have no hesitation in saying it would pay well to move bees to the basswood district, for I find by going over my diary that my bees have averaged fully 50 pounds per colony from basswood alone, each year, during the past twenty-five years.

In answering the second question, permit me to say that the fruit buds and leaflets to all trees with which I am familiar, are formed in June and July of the previous year, so the buds and flowers are already formed in the embryo, on the apparently bare and lifeless branches of the trees in midwinter. They wait only for the warmth of spring to bring this dormant life into growth. As soon as the buds unfold the latter part of May, then we can tell for a certainty just what is to be the result, barring accidents, as far as blossoms are concerned. Of course, the weather during the time of bloom, will have much to do with how much nectar will be secreted, and whether the bees will have fine days for the harvest. The practiced eye can tell nearly two months in advance as to the promise of a yield of basswood honey, the buds being very slow of maturing.

In replying to the third question, I never knew of but one season when the basswood did not furnish some honey, and that was the last. There were few flowers in any event, and then it commenced to be rainy, cool weather just as what little bloom there was opened, and continued thus for twenty days, and by the end of that time basswood was past.. Before the past season, the shortest season I ever knew, gave a three days' yield, in which honey was so plentiful that the bees could not prepare room fast enough to store it, with a gradual tapering off of two days more, making five days in all. Then one season we had a yield of 25 days with three of them so cold that the bees could only work a little in the middle of the day. The state of the atmosphere has much to do with the secretion of honey in the basswood flowers, the most favorable being when the weather is very warm with the air filled with electricity. At such times the honey can be jarred from the blossoms on a sheet of tin or glass so it will collect drops upon them. At such times as these the nectar is very thick, almost to the consistency of honey without any evaporation, while during a cold, cloudy, rainy spell the secretion is so thin that it takes much evaporation to reduce it. When the secretion is at its best, I doubt whether there is such a thing as overstocking a good basswood locality, if 1,000 colonies were located all in one place.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Michigan bee-keepers are agitating the introduction of a new, up-to-date foul brood bill, to supersede the present law, which is said to be inadequate, and behind the times.

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O. O. Poppleton, in Gleanings, suggests that honey weighing less than 11½pounds to the gallon would hardly be merchantable. Right; and twelve pound honey would have a better effect upon the future market.

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Gleanings.—A press made and operated by J. J. Rapp, of California, is said to remove the wax from old combs more effectually than can be done by any other means. The refuse from a solar extractor are, by this method, worked over with profit. The plan of construction is not given.

—o—

Scientists say bees have no ears. E. Whitcomb says he is no scientist, but says he knows that bees can hear in some way. Probably sound waves are perceptible to their delicately-constructed nervous system. Every practical bee-keeper will agree with Mr. Whitcomb that they do hear, ears or no ears.

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H. E. HILL, - - - Editor.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER,
Falconer, N. Y.

☞Subscribers receiving their paper in blue wrapper will know that their subscription expires with this number. We hope that you will not delay favoring us with a renewal.

☞A red wrapper on your paper indicates that you owe for your subscription. Please give the matter your early attention.

EDITORIAL.

Is your wrapper red, white or blue? Please note the new system of notification adopted with this number, and explained as formerly in the paragraphs above.

Personal. — "Optimus," please send name and address to Box 308, Titusville, Pa.

To bee-keepers who depend solely upon white clover for a crop of honey, as many do, next month will tell the tale. Is your dish right side up?

As a result of the scarcity of beeswax, prices on foundation have advanced three cents(3) per pound. The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co. are now paying cash 28c. per pound, or 30c. in trade for wax of good quality delivered, freight paid to Falconer, N. Y. See advertisements in another column.

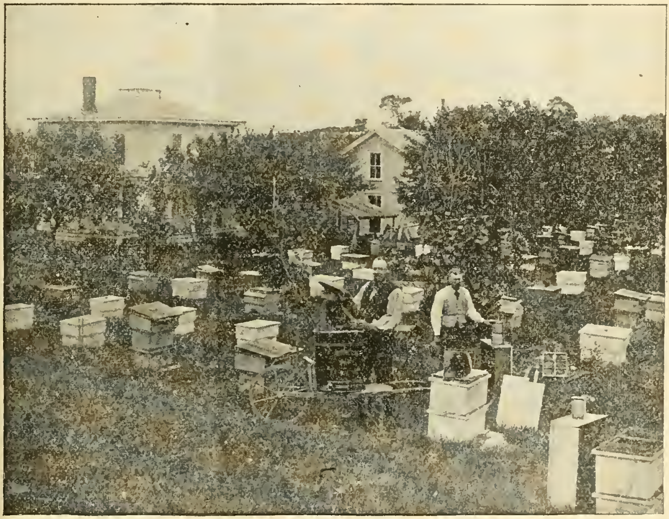
When this edition of the American Bee-Keeper is wrapped for mailing it will present an array of national colors befitting its name and date in history. Though from an artistic standpoint, the disproportionate display of red might offend a highly cultivated sense of harmony in the art of color and design.

Like every other question connected with bee-keeping, early setting out of bees in the spring, as advocated by many of late years, finds opposition; and that based upon unfavorable experience. After reading the experience of others it would be well to locate the "golden mean" and experiment both ways. In these matters every man must be "a law unto himself."

A discussion of the wax moth in the American Bee Journal, by Prof. Cook, and C. Theilmann, elicits the fact that both of these gentlemen are prone to discredit the statement by others, that a species of moth exists which prey upon solid cakes of beeswax. It is a fact too well known to bee-keepers of tropical countries, that such a destroyer is a reality, and that handfuls of their semi-waxen excrement, particles of web and wriggling atoms of animal life máy be gathered from the surface, and about the base of any cake of wax that is exposed for a period of six weeks or longer, during the summer months.

Foul Brood Inspector Wm. McEvoy, of Ontario, than whom America has no better authority on matters pertaining to this disease, in the Bee-Keepers' Review, says: "I have always asserted, and do yet, that foul brood can and sometimes does originate from the rotting of uncared-for brood; and believing that to be a fact, I have warned bee-keepers everywhere against the dangerous and horribly filthy practice of putting combs containing decayed brood into their colonies for the bees to clean out."

Mr. Doolittle's contribution, "How I Started in Bee-Keeping," in this number of The Bee-Keeper, would have appeared last month, had we not thought those of our subscribers who have been reading his writings in these columns for years, as well as the many new ones, who have more recently joined our circle, would appreciate a glimpse of his present apiary in connection with his story of the mere, though happy chance that brought him in contact with the pursuit to which he has proven himself so eminently adapted. We give below Mr. Doolittle's explanatory note which came with the picture:



APIARY OF G. M. DOOLITTLE.

"The only photo of my apiary which I have in my possession was taken some fifteen years ago, which I mail you. It gives as good a view of our surroundings as would one taken at this time. The 'chap' at the wheelbarrow is Doolittle, and the man beside him is a neighbor who happened in at the time. I do not have so many different kinds of hives now, and all have tin roofs, so that the awkward looking boards on some of them would not be in a picture taken at this time. Of course you will note that the building with the door open is the shop, in which I store all my honey, run steam machinery to do the work for my apiary, and in one room of the same, do my 'scribbling' for the bee papers."

For the information of those who have no opportunity to see the "scribbling" that G. M. does for the bee-papers in that shop, until it is reduced to plain Roman print, we might say that he uses neither a pencil nor pen—just a hundred dollar writing machine.

J. H. Martin, in Gleanings, says bee-paralysis and the "nameless" disease, which were formerly so destructive in California apiaries, are on the wane, and now attract little attention.

Any of our readers who have never used such a device will hardly appreciate the great convenience and service secured in handling frames by having an ordinary window blind staple driven into the end of each bottom bar, allowing it to project about one-fourth of an inch. While it serves as an end spacer for the frames, its great utility lies in the protection it affords to any bees that may be on the end bars, when shaking or otherwise handling frames. Such a safeguard against the possible injury or destruction of queens is in itself a source of satisfaction when working hurriedly. Try a few this year, and if not pleased with the result, tell us why.

PROTECTION IN SIGHT.

Hon. Eugene Secor, who, with Rev. E. T. Abbott, as delegates from the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, represented American bee-keeping interests at the pure food and drug congress in Washington in March, writes: "A policy and plan of work was outlined that will doubtless result in good for not only our industry but all other food preparations."

The Brosius Pure Food Bill, H. R. No. 5441, now before congress, was found to comprise such provisions as are much needed to compel honest branding of all food preparations and thus protect the honest producer of honey and others from fraudulent competition, in the way of adulterated imitations; and every bee-keeper is earnestly advised to write at once to his congressional representative and senator, urging its early consideration and adoption, in the interest of every honest industry

FINISHED SECTIONS—ARE THEY DESIRABLE?

From the plain-section controversy has developed a new question. "Is it desirable that sections should be filled and finished to the wood on all sides?"

Some of our most successful producers hold the negative position on this subject. We have never been troubled with over-filled sections, and have always worked to secure as far as possible perfectly filled and capped boxes of honey. They look better, stand shipment with less breakage, reduce the section and shipping case items of expense and shorten the hours of labor; both in producing and preparing the crop for the market. From our present knowledge, however, we are inclined to regard the projecting side-pieces as a valuable protection to the surface of the comb in handling; while the extra completion of the honey through the use of the plain section, is by no means an established fact.

To those who desire to test the relative merits of the two styles of sections this year, The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co. is prepared to supply your needs.

SOURCE OF BEE-KEEPING KNOWLEDGE.

Complaint is made by some of our New York state readers that the bee news of our home state is not in proportion to its subscribers. Ah, this is a more welcome criticism than any commendatory remarks that have been offered during the last three months; for it affords an opportunity to remind our bee-keeping friends that they, themselves, are the sole originators of bee-keeping news, and that it is the mission of the American Bee-Keeper to disseminate such items of interest as are reported.

Every class or trade journal relies upon the active workers of the industry which it represents, for information and support. Since the art of printing was invented—since nature's first swarm of bees started for the woods to hunt a hollow tree, not one practical bee-keeping idea has originated in an editorial room. To verify this statement would involve a line of reasoning too long for these columns; yet it is a fact. The point is, all bee-keeping knowledge must have its origin in the apiary or by direct contact with the principle involved.

New York justly claims the largest interest in our list, of any one state, and should, therefore, by reason of their greater numbers and incidental greater interest and increased contributions, receive proportionately greater representation. But there can be no effect without a cause, and in this case the cause is controlled by the bee-keepers.

Let our bee-keeping friends of the Empire state shed their veil of reticence—let each one trim his apicultural lamp and hold it aloft, and The Bee-Keeper will become a dazzling beacon. Its apicultural light would descend from the sound to Jamestown, as the electric rays fall upon Bedloe's Island.

OLD COMBS FOR BROOD.

R. C. Akin, in Gleanings, cites an instance corroborative of Mr. Dugdale's experience, as reported several years ago in some of the journals, that he had witnessed the act of bees tearing down and rebuilding old brood combs. Mr. Akin thinks the bees can be depended on to reconstruct the combs when they have become too small by accumulated cocoons for breeding. This would seem to be the rule; yet we are convinced that full development of the larval bee is sometimes prevented by cells thus contracted.

A very marked difference in the size of one queen's progeny, several years ago, led to an investigation of the cause, with the result that all the bees emerging from a certain old comb were found to be very much under size, while those hatching from all others were normal. According to our recollection of the circumstances, this comb had been in use about twenty years, and we were disposed to accept the instance as strong evidence in favor of renewing about every ten years. Yet, having never observed a similar effect upon other colonies, an air of uncertainty would occasionally pervade our conclusions.

Some years later we were engaged to transfer a number of box-hive colonies for a farmer bee-keeper. Among the lot was an antique relic of the builder's architectural skill, reduced almost to ruins by the ravages of time, which, the owner informed us, was established upon the homestead during the occupancy of his grandfather, and that it had served continuously as the bees' abode for sixty years.

Here, indeed, was a rare opportunity to observe the effect of old combs upon the development of their brood; and the crumbling walls of the erstwhile palatial hive were removed with curious interest. The lower edge of the combs, of irregular formation and black with age, contained a preponderance of wax. In some instances the septum being fully one-quarter inch in thickness. The cappings of the honey, as dark and rough as the bark of an oak tree, defied chronology, though suggesting a period antedating American railroads and Jackson's administration. Yet the bees were not in the least diminished in size; showing conclusively that in this instance, at least, the combs had been remodeled, or the cocoons removed in some way by the bees.

The former instance (in which the development of the bee was undoubtedly hampered by cocoons) was, then, evidently the "exception," which, it is said, there are to all rules.

Various methods are being recommended to assist in finding the queen in very strong colonies. If someone would devise a practical method of readily locating the queen in weak colonies, in which the bees are always more unsteady and the queen dodging out of sight around the ends and bottom of the combs, a greater service would be rendered. We would much prefer to undertake finding the queen in a strong colony than in one less populous.

BEE BREVITIES.

M. F. Reeve, of Rutledge, Pa., wrote to us that on March 19 and 20, the thermometer indicated nearly summer heat, and that the bees were then coming in laden with pollen, red, white and yellow, from maple larch and willow. Rather early business for his latitude.

—o—

Alsike clover continues to gain favor; not alone for its merit as a honey-yielding plant, but as a result of its excellence as a pasture and hay crop. The satisfactory experience that others are having with alsike should induce a trial by farmers that have not yet tested it. Dairymen are loud in its praise.

—o—

With reference to the practice of setting a large number of colonies closely together in the apiary, the editor of the Canadian Bee Journal remarks: "I am not sure, but I am inclined to think that many bees humming, flying and roaring about in a limited space, tends to swarming." May be something in it, too.

—o—

According to Editor Root, the operators employed in the apiaries of W. L. Coggshall, one of New York's largest producers of honey, are decidedly of the "lightning" class, their methods of the "hurricane" order and "hurry-up" the watchword. Economy of time holds precedence against all else, and everything is done on the "get-there" principle. Supers that are stuck too tight to yank off are kicked off; and he estimates that from a quart to a peck of bees are crushed to death, drowned in the honey, or otherwise killed at each extracting. Of course the bees do not shirk their plain duty to resent such treatment by constant stinging, on these slaughter days, and, judging from Mr. Root's experience, visitors who desire to witness the operation of extracting in this extensive and successful honey-producing plant, should provide a coat of mail, or other impenetrable armour. Mr. Harry S. Howe, whose likeness appears in another column of this number of The Bee-Keeper, is one of Coggshall's "lightning" operators.

—o—

We regret to learn that Mr. Poppleton has recently suffered quite a a heavy loss as the result of one of his apiaries being located in the wake of one of those destructive fires, which, during the spring months are constantly raging through the woodlands of South Florida. The bee-house with all its contents, including a new Cowan extractor, uncapping can, tank with several hundred pounds of honey and numerous other articles of value, was destroyed. Many hives of bees were damaged and eleven strong colonies were consumed outright.

—o—

Take a scap box, remove a three-inch strip from one side of the bottom. Over this opening tack a double thickness of window screen. Invert the box and nail a top bar along each side and to these secure a piece of half-inch stuff projecting five inches. Affix legs high enough to admit a pail, of varying lengths, to give the right angle; complete conductor by strips at side, wax well to prevent leakage, and you have an uncapping can (?) as made and used by Mrs. Effe Brown, and described in American Bee Journal.

—o—

At an X ray lecture in Los Angeles the "professor" invited the audience to place anything they might desire before the instrument. Having a sample mailing block containing two bottles of honey, J. H. Martin placed it between the ray and the screen. "The block," he says, "did not appear on the screen but the bottles of honey stood out in bold relief." This experiment was made four months ago and the honey has not yet granulated, and Mr. Martin suggests that those having an X ray handy make the test on various grades of honey disposed to granulate.

Insufficient room in the brood chamber crowds the bees into the surplus apartments, which, when removed, leave the bees to die of starvation, says W. S. Donner in A. B. J. A large hive with deep frames is recommended for the amateur, and the importance of leaving plenty of stores below at all times is emphasized. Large hives, large colonies and large crops are some of the noteworthy causes and effects associated with his successful experience.

OUR
CORRESPONDENTS

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Division of Pomology,
Washington, D. C., April 9, 1898.
W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.,
Jamestown, N. Y.

Gentlemen—I am in receipt of yours of the 6th inst. enclosing vouchers in payment for boxes which we ordered from you. These vouchers have been signed here and sent to the chairman of the Commission, Mr. Brigham, for signature and you will receive a draft in payment for boxes in a few days. The boxes have just arrived and we have opened and examined them, and are very much pleased with them. It seems to me there could not be a more perfect job made. I wonder how you can make them so cheaply. If we have any occasion for using any more boxes you will certainly receive our order. Thanking you for promptness in executing this order, I am

Yours truly,
G. B. BRACKETT,
Pomologist,

Stuart, Fla., April 12, 1898.
Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Dear Sir—Quite a little has been said about that big Texas yield of honey, but curiously, everyone has overlooked the important feature. Mr. Carroll claimed to have received 1,000 pounds of surplus honey in one season from one colony and its increase. It would simply have been playing to have done that with any of our very best colonies here in 1894. Such a colony could have been divided into at least four colonies early in February, which, without extra nursing, would have overrun their 250 pounds each from April 1 to August 1, which was the extent of our main honey season that year.

Wishing you abundant success in your new calling, I am

Yours truly,
O. O. POPPLETON.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

BOSTON, MASS., April 14, 1898.—There is but little call for anything but light grades in this market. Comb honey, 9c to 13, according to grade and quality. Extracted 5 to 7c per lb. Beeswax is scarce at 26c. BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE,
57 Chatham Street.

CLEVELAND, O., April 28, 1898.—We quote our market to-day as follows:—Fancy white, 12c; No. 1 white, 11c; Fancy amber, 9@10c; No. 1 amber, 8c; Fancy dark, 7c; White extracted, 6c; Amber, 5½c. Beeswax, 26c. A. B. WILLIAMS & Co.,
80-82 Broadway.

CINCINNATI, O., Mar. 21, 1898.—The demand for extracted honey is fair, with short supply. Price, 4 to 6c. Slow demand for comb 10 to 13c. Good demand for beeswax with a fair supply Prices, 20to 25c. for good to choice yellow.
CHAS. F. MUTH & SON,
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If the kidneys are at fault—and in almost every case in the failing of our health they are—look well to their restoration to health and strength.

They are the great filters of our body, and consequently, the purity of the blood is entirely dependent on their cleansing powers.

If the kidneys are not in a perfectly clean and healthy condition, the blood becomes impregnated with impurities and a decay of the kidneys soon takes place. If your desire to relieve yourself of water increases, and you find it necessary to arise many times during sleeping hours, your kidneys are sick. As they reach a more unhealthy stage, a scalding and irritation takes place as the water flows, and pain or dull ache in the back makes you miserable. If the water, when allowed to remain undisturbed for twenty-four hours, forms a settling or sediment, you are in the grasp of most serious kidney or blader disorders.

If neglected now the disease advances until the face looks pale or sallow, puffy or dark circles under the eyes, the feet swell, and sometimes the heart acts badly.

There is no more serious menace to health and strength than any derangement of the kidneys.

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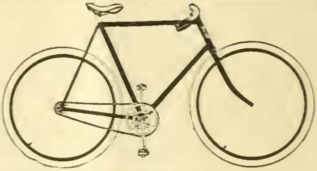

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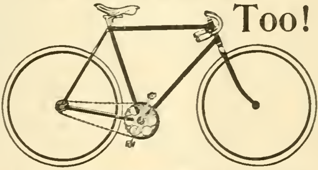

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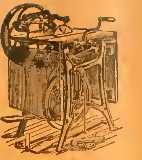

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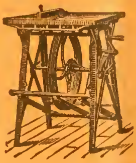

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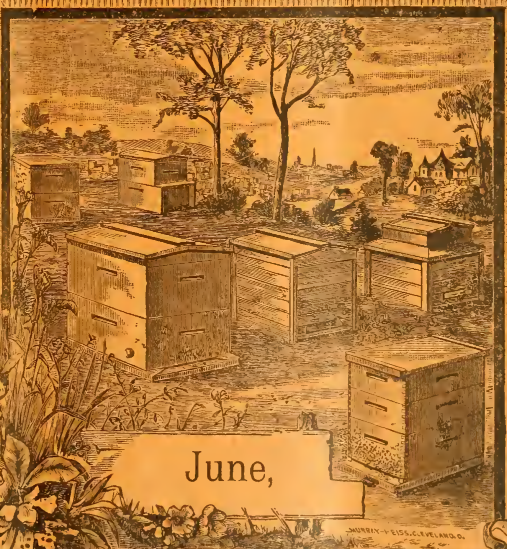
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June, 1898.

VOL. VIII. No. 6.

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The Bee-Keepers' Review

Made substantial improvements with the beginning of the present year. It is printed on heavy, white book paper, from large, clear, new type, and has a cover of heavy cream, paradox paper printed in that warmest of all colors--claret. With each number there is also a frontispiece of some subject connected with bee-keeping, printed on heavy ivory enameled paper, These pictures are all half-tones made from photographs. That of December showed a comb badly infected with foul brood. January showed eight sections of comb honey, four of them in the old style of sections and four in the plain style. It is an object lesson worth seeing. The one for February shows a beautiful view of an out-apiary in the wilds of Wisconsin, a really picturesque view. March frontispiece is a scene in a sugar-maple forest in Michigan. So much by the way of mechanical improvements; but it is more difficult to describe the information it contains. Perhaps the best that can be said is that never before has there been so much pains taken to secure the best of correspondence—to get the views and experiences of the very best bee-keepers.

The price of the Review is $1.00 per year, but if you prefer to know still more about it before subscribing, send ten cents in either stamps or silver, and three late but different issues will be sent you. These will give you a fair idea of the Review, and, if you then wish to subscribe, the ten cents that you have sent may apply on your subscription. A coupon will be sent entitling you to the Review one year for 90 cents if sent in during 1898.

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Gleanings in Bee Culture,	1 00	1 35

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

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PROBLEM OF MARKETING.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

IT was with more than usual interest that I read the article by friend Jolley under the above caption, in the March American Bee-Keeper.

I was so interested that I read the article the second and the third time. Then I fell to wondering if that sentence, which is the underlying principle of the whole argument, "That the producers have worked their own ruin, is especially true of the honey producer," was true or not. This led me to ask some questions. Has the massing of our honey in the large cities, or "great emporiums where the market price is made," been the means of bringing the price down from 25 to 30 cents in the early seventies, to from 10 to 12 cents now? Is it true that "the cause that has been pre-eminent in lowering the price of honey has been the competition among the commission men and dealers" in our " great emporiums?" Did friend Jolley stop to fully analyze his thoughts when he committed himself to such statements? Will these reasons solve the mystery why butter, beans, barley, wheat, oats, etc., bring a like less average price with honey? If it will, should not the same logic apply, to horses, farms, bees, etc., which have fallen in like proportion? Will friend Jolley attempt to say that the reason why I cannot now sell my place of thirty acres with good buildings on it for $50 an acre, while I had to pay $100 an acre for it in 1874, is because there has been competition among the commission men and dealers, on small farms massed in the "great emporiums?" In answering that question he will see the falacy of his arguments, for everything on which no trust or combine has been formed, have gone down in about the same proportion as honey. Let me try my hand at the thing for a moment or two, and then if I make a blunder I hope the editor will permit my friend Jolley and others to set me right. Bro. J. started out with some statement relative to "supply and demand," and had he stuck to that thread of the matter I think he could have come to a more logical conclusion than he did by casting the whole thing over to "great emporiums." Under normal conditions, demand and supply are equal, and production is the cause of demand. Demand implies the wish for an article and the ability to purchase it. The production of the equivalent of the article desired, or the taking of that equivalent from him who has produced it, is the only means by which the second condition of effective demand can be fulfilled. When a toiler produces an article, like honey, he does so because he wishes to consume that article, or trade it for something to consume. The toiler with whom he trades, if he trade directly, produces what he does with the express purpose of supplying the demand for what the other produces—honey. By the act of producing, each creates a demand for what the other produces. The demand is, in each case, just equal to the amount produced. But this normal condition is all upset by the non-producers —monopolists, speculators, trusts, etc. —coming in and taking a share of the production for which they render no equivalent, in productive toil. They deprive the producer to that extent of effective demand, and make the goods (honey) which his fellow producer creates for him a drug on the market. To illustrate: If Jolley raises honey which he wishes to trade for Smith's wheat and Jones' pork, and Barber's shoes, and Scott's clothes, it is to the interest of Smith, Jones, Barber and Scott, as well as Jolley, that he retain all of the honey which he raises to trade for their wheat, pork, shoes and clothes. For if a portion of the honey taken from Jolley is unearned charges, that leaves him able to buy just that much less of wheat, pork, shoes and clothes. Then when we consider that a like amount is taken from Smith, Jones, Barber and Scott, we see that the production of each gives him effective demand, diminished by just the amount taken from him in unearned incomes, and the toilers, as a body, are worse off by just the aggregate amount taken from them in unearned incomes. Those understanding these things the best concede that the amount thus taken at the present time is 52 cents out of every dollar's worth produced. Evidently, the persons who pay the billions collected annually by the non-producers, deprive themselves by just that amount of the ability to purchase (honey) and there is just that much less effective demand for articles (honey, etc.,) used by the productive toilers. Then the amount which these non-producers decide to hoard is represented by goods on the market for which there is no demand. These non-producers have the ability to purchase, but not the desire, and the masses who have the desire to demand the goods on the market have not the ability to purchase, hence must look upon glutted markets, languishing trade, suspended industries, idle laborors and starving multitudes. Mr. Jolley admits this when he says "there never was an over production of honey" and "the price of honey goes but little or no higher in times of derth than in seasons of universal plenty." If these unearned incomes were not collected by private parties, the immense fund which they represent would be in the hands of the active toilers who produced it, supply and demand would always remain equal; there would be no cry go up from bee-keepers about "over-loaded and glutted" markets with honey, and all laborers would be steadily employed. The law of supply and demand will work only where one retains his own. In an economic organization or system where a few are allowed to take a portion of the substance of the many, without giving value received, the law is modified and its effect appears distorted. And under such conditions, supply and demand are so poorly balanced that we have storehouses filled with honey, elevators bursting with grain, and glutted markets in the midst of want and starvation, and idleness on the threshold of poverty. It is the law of all systems to develop to maturity, and the effect will be that prices for honey will go lower and lower, as the system is continued, notwithstanding Bro. Jolley's plan of "unity among the producers of honey." The business of every bee-keeper should be to remove the artificial modifications of natural law, and allow our suffering industry, together with others, to reassume their natural equilibrium. This can be the only "effective cure."

[A proof of the foregoing was sent to Mr. Jolley in order that a reply thereto might appear simultaneously, if he so desired. The following is his response.—ED.]

PROBLEM OF MARKETING.

A Reply to Mr. Doolittle's Criticism.

BY ED. JOLLEY.

KEEPING as close as possible to the editor's enjoinment to brevity, I will try and answer a few of Mr. Doolittle's questions.

The thread of Mr. Doolittle's argument is that it is owing to the system of trusts and combines, that we have the abnormal condition of unbalanced trade, with its attendant depreciation of values and falling prices. And that the price of everything on which no trust is formed falls at a commensurate with those that are operated by the trusts.

Now let us see if the actual facts will warrant this view. By the way of illustration we will examine one article that is controlled by trusts, and one that is not, and for the sake of brevity we will let these articles stand as examples of their respective classes, as the same line of reasoning will carry out with all other articles of either class. We will first take wheat. As long as the amount of wheat produced was equal to the demand, the wheat market was normal. But with the developing of the wheat resources of the country, the time came when the wheat produced exceeded the demand. The farmers were not financially able to hold their wheat. Consequently there was the abnormal condition of a glutted market and falling prices. It was then that a combine of moneyed men was formed for the purpose of keeping the bottom from dropping out and completely demoralizing the wheat market. They bought and held this surplus and restored the wheat market to its normal condition by regulating the supply to the demand. Were it not for this system, in seasons of great plenty the price of wheat would go lown below the cost of production and in times of scarcity so high as to be almost beyond the reach of the poorer classes.

We will now take an article, that owing to its perishable nature, cannot be made subject to this system—potatoes. In seasons of universal large crops of potatoes will go begging for 15 or 20 cents a bushel. And in times of scarcity they go so high that you can almost taste money in every bite of them.

Following out this line of reasoning on articles held in trust, and all not, the question naturally arises why everything is lower in price than in the early "seventies." Owing to better developed resources, improved machinery and appliances, and short cuts in labor, the cost of production now, is as much less relatively as the selling price.

Now, as to brother Doolittle's statement that honey occupies the same place in our markets relative to other products, that it did in the "early seventies," when he got 25 and 30 cents per pound. Now to show you that this statement is not correct, we will go back to the "early seventies," and I trade with those gentlemen named by friend Doolittle. Smith, Jones, Barber, etc. To make it short I will consummate a deal with but one of them, which will be illustrative of what a deal with others would amount to. I will take my honey and go to Barber and trade for shoes. I will charge him 25 cents a pound for the honey, and it didn't cost me but little more to produce a pound of honey then than it does now, with all our present short cuts and appliances. Barber charges me $4 for a pair of shoes. I give him 16 pounds of honey and complete the deal. In those days Barber's shoemaker would work all day to make a pair of shoes. Now Barber has improved machinery by which his man can turn out twelve pairs for the same wages he got then for one.

We will now come up to the present time and I will take my honey and go again to Barber. He is an older looking man than he used to be but he smiles when he sees me coming, for he knows that he will get more honey from me now for a pair of shoes than he did the last time. He charges me $2 for a pair of shoes, the labor on which cost him one-twelfth as much as the last pair. I charge him 10 cents per pound for honey that cost me almost as much per pound to produce as what he got before. Barber has come down 50 per cent. on his goods that cost him one-twelfth as much to produce, and I have come down 60 per cent. on mine that cost me about the same to produce.

The trouble with us is that honey occupies a lower place in relation to other produce than it did formerly, and that without the excuse of a single over-production to offer for it.

Now I don't think for a moment that we could by any means make the ruling price for honey as high as it was in the "early seventies," but I do think by some means of co-operation among the producers of honey we ought to be able to place it in its proper place in relation to other produce. And until this is done, just that much of our honey goes to Smith, Jones, Barber and Scott in unearned charges, and we are able to retain just that much less of our honey. Now, if friend Doolittle will compare the price of his farm, for which he paid $100 an acre in 1874, with farm land in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska or other western states, he will see that while his farm has gone down in value, the others have come up, which is nothing more or less than an equalization of the real estate values of the country, which will in time seek the same level as naturally as water.

Franklin, Pa.

THE HONEY MARKET.

Farmer Bee-keepers not Responsible for Low Prices—A Reply to M. W. Shepherd.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY C. STANLEY BAXTER.

THE article written by Mr. Shepherd in the April Bee-Keeper concerning farmer bee-keepers would naturally lead people to believe that farmers should have no independence as a class; they should keep to "farmin' it" and not enter into the keeping of bees at all. Now, I do not agree with Mr. S. and will endeavor to state my reasons, form observations and experience in this vicinity. The bee-keepers in this vicinity consist of Captain J. E. Hetherington, specialist; J. Van Deusen & Sons., of the flat-bottom foundation fame, and several others, who are engaged in farming and keep from five to one hundred colonies.

I will admit that, if the farmer bee-keepers of today are compared with the farmer bee-keepers of thirty or more years ago, they would undoubtedly have to take the blame; but the farmer bee-keepers of today produce as fine a quality of honey, and it is placed upon the market in as good condition as that of most specialists. Those farmer bee-keepers scrape the sections all nice and clean, assort the honey, if the quantity warrants, placing sections well filled out in one crate; those not so well filled in another; also assort as to color and kind. It is then weighed and is ready for market. How would this affect the price—would it lower it? No! Any one would suppose that the majority of our large bee-keepers were farmers. Now, I do not understand how they could care for their honey and bees, and make it pay, if conducted on the system stated by Mr. Shepherd.

I think the bee-keeping fraternity is large enough to control the price of honey to a certain extent, which I think they do, and as those farmer bee-keepers; they do not produce a quantity sufficient to glut or lower prices in any market

The great cause of low prices is competition, and the law of supply and demand. If any person cannot compete with his brother bee-keeper, farmer or otherwise, as to quality, quantity and marketing in the most attractive packages; so the eye is pleased as well as the taste, he had better engage in some other pursuits and keep from grumbling about the price of honey.

Sharon Springs, N. Y.

[We are inclined to believe that a misunderstanding has resulted from Mr. Shepherd's somewhat ambiguous style in training his sarcastic guns upon the large dealers. We take it that portions of his article are to be read by contrary. How is it, M. W.?—Ed.]

Shade for Hives.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper,

BY ELVARINO ROSENFIELD.

I AM a boy fourteen years of age. I have one colony of bees which my father gave me last July. I packed them last fall and they are wintering all right. I have seen them out flying this spring. I will write an article to your paper about shade for bees. Bees need shade, but some do not shade them. But shading is necessary to prevent the comb from melting down. Some shade bees by placing a board over the hive but I am not in favor of this because they blow off unless stones are placed upon them, and it makes it look shabby; besides, it is a lot of unnecessary work and trouble to take them off and put them on. They should be shaded by trees. Catalpa trees answer the purpose very well. They do not get leaves before late in the spring and drop them after the first frost in the fall. In this way the bees can have sunshine in the fall, winter and spring, when they need it.

West Point, Neb.

Under no circumstances should smoke be used in handling swarms. Careful handling and a sprinkling of water are all that is needed.

A JOLLEY CAREER.

Sketch of Another Contributor's Life.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY ED. JOLLEY.

WHEN you asked me to tell some of the events of my life, and how I became a bee-keeper, for the American Bee-Keeper, you little knew how difficult a task you had assigned me, for my life has been an uneventful one. The events that have gone to make lasting names, and shed the luster of fame over the names and lives of others, have never been mine. I have never been good enough to rank as top-notcher for benevolence, nor bad enough to win the name of a criminal. I believe the only thing I deliberately stole was my grandmother's jackknife, and my father made me take that back. I never was arrested, and never had anybody arrested. I never was sued, nor never sued anybody. I was never subpoenaed as a witness for any trial. I never was

ED. JOLLEY.

pugilistically inclined; and to the best of my knowledge my name has never been used in connection with the presidency of the United States. So you see if my history is uninteresting it is not my fault, but simply the destined course of fate.

I was born in Forest county, Pa., in the closing month of 1865. My parents removed from there to a farm in Venango county, which was my home for the next eighteen years. Here I went to school, played, fished, and (when I couldn't help it,) worked on the farm until I was sixteen years of age, when I entered upon a course at Scrubgrass Academy, preparatory to going to college.

My plans for the future were all laid —I was going to be a lawyer. But "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-gley." While I was growing up on one farm, a little girl was growing up on an adjoining farm. Well, to make a long story short and save embarassing details, I didn't go to college. But in the fall of 1885, when I was 20, and Miss Mary Heckathorn, of the adjoining farm, was 18 years of age, we were married, and settled on a farm. In the spring of 1887 we removed to the city of Franklin, where I have since been engaged in the oil business, in the employ of the Standard Oil Company.

Among my earliest recollections are the rows of box hives of bees that stood under the walnut trees in my maternal grandfather's back yard. My father, too, kept bees in box-hives. But about all either of them knew about bees was enough to hive them when they swarmed, and kill one when they wanted honey. The issuing of a swarm was always the occasion of some very lusty and somewhat discordant music, in which I always took a prominent part; beating a pan or a boiler and yelling like a dervish.

When I came to Franklin this was the extent of my bee-knowledge. Shortly after coming here I made the acquaintance of Charles Pizer, (now deceased), who had kept bees for several years prior to his coming to town. In company with him I was one day going past the large apiary of Mr. H. S. Sutton. The day was nice and warm and the hum of the bees could be heard out to the road. Mr. Pizer proposed that we stop and have a talk with the owner. Accordingly we went in and introduced ourselves, and then the two old bee-keepers let out, as only bee-keepers can.

In the conversation which followed I was strictly "not in it," but I was not far away. The atmosphere around there was impregnated with the germs of bee-fever, and before I got away from there they had taken a deep hold on me. It is the only disease I have ever had, from which I have not recovered. But I never got over the bee-fever, and I have had it so long that I have given up ever getting over it. Before leaving, Mr. Pizer and I each purchased two colonies of bees. I took mine home and commenced to study bees. If those bees could have done it they would have handed me over to the police for a nuisance many times before the summer was over, as I spent all my spare time with them. I made so many trips to Mr. Sutton with questions that I often wonder now, that he didn't set his dog on me. I got Root's A. B. C. book and read it, and re-read it, I don't know how many times; it seemed like ten thousand, anyway. I then procured nearly all the other works on the subject, and have taken nearly all the bee journals published in this country ever since.

I have been fairly successful as a bee-keeper, securing good crops of honey and wintering with very little loss.

I keep about forty colonies; run mostly for comb honey. I have a good home market for all my honey, as well as local reputation as a "crank" on bees.

Our family consists of wife and I and three children. We have two children dead, and have considerable sickness in our family, yet we are all contented and happy, for we have one strong hold on the bright side of life—we are always Jolley.

Franklin, Pa.

When Kings Ruled the Hive.

For the following very interesting extract, from a book over 300 years old, we are indebted to Mr. George C. Deane, of Cambridge, Mass., who kindly copied it for the benefit of Bee-Keeper readers. The orthography and phraseology are no less interesting at this time than the theories of Mr. Hill, with whom we will make no effort to establish a direct lineage owing to a press of other business just now:

THE RIGHT ORDERING OF BEES.

By Thomas Hill, London, 1574.

Of the marvelous government of the King of Honey Bees nature hath not only committed her laws to bookes, the which men may learn by, but hath especially set forth conditions and properties, as for an example of the like, be the Bees, whose kings for doubt of revenging, have by the prudence of nature no stings. Whereby is to be understaded, that the kings ruling in power, through the lacke of their stinger may be by that means the slower to hurt, and offer revengement. But some affirm the kings to have stings, but they suppose them not to use their stings. And of this Plinie maketh a doubt whether the kings be armed as the other Bees, or lacketh a sting, which Columella putteth out of doubt, writing of the king that he hath no sting, unlesse any perhappes thinketh that big heads, as it were, which the king carrieth in his belly, to be his sting, with the which at no time they use to sting or hurt any. This king onely do Bees reverence, and honor him in such sort, that any of them in obedience and very ready at his bidding, to do whatsoever he assigneth them unto. Also this obedience service which they use to their king, they do not the same for fear of punishment but only of a love which they owe unto him. Yet they punishe one another in such sort that their stings be lost they die forthwith. Aristotle writeth of two manner of kings, the one as he affirmeth to be red, which he judgeth the better, the other king black of color which he confesseth te be lessor of body, yet howsoever the king be, they are notwithstanding far bigger of bodythan t he honny Bees, and have a brighter and goodlier head than other Bees, yet shorter wings, so that their king created among them goeth not at any time forth of the hive, without the whole swarm follow him. The king flying forth of the hive at any time, the other follow him, in such sorte, that eche covet to flie next him, and joyeth to be seen of the king in office, and wensoever the king setteth him or resteth, there be other Bees placed like strong holders or castles about him. About the king also be certain rulers, which waite upon by daily authoritie. If any happeneth, as writeth Plinie, to breake of the king's right wing, then from the king will not the swarme after depart. as the like was rehersed afore. Besides these, the Bees have a marvelous order among them if the king happens to die, for they shall bitterly mourne for their king head, and for the lacke of another, as such which cannot be guided and ruled without a king among them, of this they be in continuall mourning. So that for the time, they carry no food into their hives, nor fly not forth, but with a sad bewailing and humming, after their king, they heap thick together about the dead bodie, and unless another king increaseth little by little among them, they die for hunger. Their king laboreth not, but as the other flye forthe, in the meane time as an exhorter moveth and encourageth forward every one to his worke, by his flying about in the hyve.

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EDITORIAL.

Hives in readiness for the new swarms should be kept shaded until used. Bees dislike a hot hive, and frequently abscond as a result of such being used.

War is the all-absorbing topic just now, but let us not neglect to bestow the careful attention so essential to success in the apiary at this particular season. Bee-keepers should "remember the Main" honey flow is at hand, and that the harvest comes but once a year.

"In addition to its intensely critical condensed view of bee writings, by E. E. Hasty, together with other marked improvements, the Bee-Keepers' Review has introduced a new "department of criticism." The initial C of the department heading encloses a miniature medallion half-tone of Hon. R. L. Taylor, of the Michigan State Agricultural college, by whose very able pen the criticisms are conducted. The Review is indeed an unique publication; a credit to its editor and an honor to its supporters; and, in point of interest to advanced apiarists, its new department is second to none of those previously established. We are proud of our sprightly, artistic and edifying exchange."

Some of our forehanded bee-keepers begin preparations this month for the coming winter, by securing extra combs of sealed honey for winter stores.

An invariable rule in some large apiaries, including our own, is: "Keep combs on edge." Accidents resulting in annoyance and loss are thus averted, and the habit is easily acquired.

The strongest colonies should be selected for producing comb honey. See that the hive sets level, and by glancing between the sections, make sure that none of the foundation starters have been jarred loose, before placing the super upon the hive. One fallen starter, where separators are not used, may ruin a whole row of combs.

"Successful Methods of Rearing Queen Bees," by Henry Alley, of Wenham, Mass., is the latest acquisition to our library, and the thoroughly reliable source of the information contained, places it at once among the standard works on this subject. It is a concise, yet quite exhaustive treatise; being largely a revision of the Bee-Keepers' Handy Book, of which Mr. Alley is the author, and brings the subject up to date. His style and language are such as to be readily understood by the most inexperienced—a commending feature too often neglected by book-makers. Mr. Alley is a recognized authority, of unusual experience on queen rearing; was for several years editor of the American Apiculturist, and is thoroughly master of his subject. We bespeak deserved popularity for the little book.

Membership in the United States Bee-Keepers' Union costs $1 per year. The subscription price of the American Bee-Keeper is but 50 cents a year; but as a special inducement, and in order to increase the Union's membership, the publishers will agree to send the Bee-Keeper to all who may become members of the Union, at just one-half the regular rate. The Union now has about 400 members, though but a year old. We ought to make it 4,000 by the close of the year. See advertisement in another column.

In the American Bee Journal the question is asked: "What would you advise in order that the membership in the United States Bee-Keepers' Union may be so increased as to make it of the greatest possible good to the bee-keeping pursuit?" To this R. L. Taylor replies: "You have the cart before the horse. 'Make it the greatest possible good' to its membership, then its membership will be sufficiently increased." Mr. Taylor is not in the habit of vocalizing his thoughts without due consideration, and we are, therefore, led to cherish the hope that his full ideas in this connection, were not expressed in the Journal. Hence we beg to propound a supplemental question: How can the Union be made of any possible good (not to say "the greatest,") to its members without an increased membership?

B. A. Hodsell, in the American Bee Journal, says: "Bee-keepers of Arizona are up-to-date and wide awake, using the best hives, extractors and all modern improvements. Last, but not least, they read bee papers and keep themselves informed." It is further stated that the Salt and Gila (pronounced Heelah) valleys alone have shipped to eastern markets twenty-nine carloads of honey in a single season; that nearly all their bee-keepers are members of two associations, through which they buy their supplies and ship their honey in carload lots. Arizona bee-keepers have long since been brought to realize the benefits of co-operation, and, unlike some of the Bee Journal's sage counselors of the "question box," believe in taking hold of live questions and assisting the development of improved conditions in which they expect to share; as shown by the large number of Arizona members in the United States Bee-Keepers' Union. That our brethern of the far southwest are up-to-date and progressive, is amply attested by the mere fact of their support to the broadest, most promising and progressive organization that has ever stood as the representative of our industry and as the champion of the bee-keepers' rights. It would be well if there were more of the Arizona spirit in Illinois and Kentucky.

At the Colorado convention, in reply to the question: "Will it pay to feed in spring to stimulate," Mrs. Rhodes said she knew it did pay, and in proof of her knowledge, continued: "One spring we fed several pounds of sugar a week. It proved to be a poor season, but we got 1,000 pounds of honey when our neighbors got nothing. Our bees built up and theirs did not.

The Australian Bee Bulletin queries: "How many of our readers belong to the National Bee-Keepers' association?" and adds: "If you do not, don't complain you can't get a price for your honey." Substituting our own national association, the U. S. B. K. U., this advice has a significant application right here, at home. Yet we learn through the American Bee Journal's question box that some are waiting for prices to advance before joining the Union.

BEE BREVITIES

"A captive bee striving to escape, has been made to record as many as 15,540 wing strokes per minute, in a recent test."—San Francisco Post.

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A writer in the American Bee Journal adduces strong evidence that queenless bees will sometimes steal eggs from other colonies, with which to relieve their otherwise hopeless condition.

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F. Rauchfuss, at the Colorado convention, stated his observation to have been that in renewing their old brood combs, bees choose a time when the combs are free from brood, as during queenlessness. An interesting observation, surely.

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W. P. Whitaker, of Centreville, Utah, writes that he recently purchased ten colonies in dry goods boxes; transferred them in the usual way to good hives, and they are now prospering in their homes. Utah is coming to the front as a bee country.

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The somewhat beclouded skies of the apicultural future are illumed by the light of encouragement, through the introduction of recent improvements, as seen by L. A. Aspinwall, in April Review, who says, "we are progressing towards a perfect system of bee-culture." Then in immediate succession comes an article by C. G. Ferris, wholly in line with his introductory paragraph: "I am thoroughly disgusted with the way that producers of honey are going backward instead of improving their product." And the horizon is again obscured by sombre clouds.

We have an excellent article on the management of an apiary for extracted honey, by Mr. John Newton, to appear in our next issue. Mr. Newton wrote us May 17th that bees in that section of the country, (Ontario) had wintered well, and were improving the lovely weather by active work on fruit bloom and dandelions.

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Dr. A. B. Mason, of Toledo, O., writes that the idea of using the blind staple in the end of bottom bars, as suggested in the Bee-Keeper last month, "strikes" him as a good thing, and that he will give it a trial. We have used staples in this way for the past eighteen years, and would not think of trying to work without them. You'll like them, doctor.

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The widely different traits of character in bees of the same variety or race, as noted by every bee-keeper of experience, according to J. E. Crane, in Review, is a disposition to be prized; as it lends substantial encouragement in the work of improving our stock. If all bees of the same race were of uniform disposition, invariably established, our ambition in the line of improvement would be hopeless.

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Speaking of the fruit institute of Michigan, held at Grand Rapids, the American Agriculturist says: "Prof. Barrows gave one talk each day upon insects of archard fruits, insects of small fruits, fertilization of flowers and the natural enemies of insects. He spoke of the importance of not spraying with poisonous solutions while the trees are in flower, as this will also destroy the bees, which are necessary for the cross-fertilization of the flowers, recent experiments having shown that with the exception of Baldwin and Greening nearly all of our apples are self-sterile and require the aid of insects to cross-fertilize them, while many of the other fruits are also self-sterile."

It is said, in Australian Bee Bulletin, that California and Jamaica honey holds first place in the London markets. The Bee-Keeper would welcome any bee-keeping information with which our Jamaica subscribers might favor us, regarding that fruitful and picturesque isle of the Caribbean.

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The latest account of Fred L. Craycraft, of Cuba, with whom we had arranged for some bee-keeping articles for publication, was a letter to his father, Mr. John Craycraft, of Florida, dated Havana, April 18th, in which he stated in the event of war he would disappear into the mountains and join the Cubans. Further intelligence is awaited by his parents with anxiety, which is hopefully shared by the bee-keeping fraternity.

—o—

That spongy residue often scraped from cakes of beeswax, and generally supposed to be caused by a mixture of pollen, propolis and other impurities, is in fact a result of too much boiling, by which the water is taken into the disorganized body of the wax, says C. P. Dadant, in American Bee Journal. Wax should be melted slowly, boiled but little and always with water both inside and outside of the receptacle; then allow it to cool slowly. Dadant is authority on beeswax.

—o—

There are in the United States 110 apairian societies, eight journals devoted exclusively to this industry, and 15 steam factories for the manufacture of the hives and apiarian implements. There are 300,000 persons engaged in the culture of the bee, and, according to the United States census report, they produced in 1869 14,603,815 pounds of honey, and in 1889, twenty years later, 53,894,168 pounds. According to the eleventh census, the value of the honey and wax production of the United States at wholesale rates, was $7,000,000 and a conservative estimate of the present annual production is $20,000,000.—Green's Fruit Grower. If but one-tenth of these 300,000 bee-keepers were members of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, what would be the annual production and consumption of honey in the United States, ten years hence? Think of it; we can do it if we will. Will we?

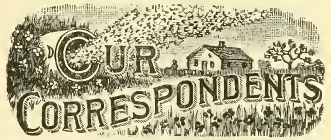
—o—

Where the natural extension of the brood-nest is hampered by stores of honey, bees sometimes transfer a portion of it to the super when placed upon the hive. If dark or inferior grades are below, in such cases, the white honey crop in the sections suffers as a result of the mixture. The last report of the Ontario Agricultural college shows this to have occurred in seven out of ten cases; and the apiarist advises placing an extracting story above until the brood-nest is fully developed.

—o—

Bees, says Horbis, can embalm as successfully as could the ancient Egyptians. It often happens in damp weather that a slug or snail will enter a beehive. This is, of course, to the unprotected slug a case of sudden death. The bees fall upon him and sting him to death at once. But what to do with the carcass becomes a vital question. If left where it is, it will breed a regular pestilence. Now comes in the cleverness of the insects. They set to work and cover it with wax, and there you may see it lying embalmed just as the nations of old embalmed their dead. When it is a snail that is the intruder, he is, of course, impenetrable to their sting, so they calmly cement his shell with wax to the bottom of the hive—imprisonment for life with no hope for pardon.—Ex. To those who have not chanced to observe a similar instance, this may be regarded as somewhat imaginary. Yet all experienced bee-keepers know that it is according to the bees' nature, and precisely what they would do in such cases. We have seen a three-inch lizzard thus entombed in a hive. Not with "wax," of course, but propolis.

The publication of the Pacific Bee Journal has been posponed, owing partly to the publisher's connection with the National Guards of California, and partly to the lack of support owing to the dry year. It is Mr. Bennett's intention to resume the publication at some future time, advancing all paid up subscriptions.



A Letter from Maine.

An invitation from the editor in the March number of the American Bee-Keeper for bee-keepers to write their experience was intended, presumably, for those of brief experience as well as those further advanced. I have been a subscriber for the American Bee-Keeper for several years, and find much in it to interest and instruct. Of course there is much written by those high in bee lore that is beyond my comprehension.

I do not remember to have seen a report from this state in the Bee-Keeper. I think Maine is not ranked high as a honey-producing state, though my personal knowledge does not extend much beyond this county, Waldo, where there are several bee-keepers with stock varying from twenty to sixty colonies; the products of which are disposed of in local markets.

My own experience commenced about eight years ago, when, in the fall, I bought a heavy hive, or box, very heavy with honey, paying the generous price of $8.

The seller assured me that the hive contained sufficient honey to pay the cost, which was, probably, true, but as I could not remove the over-abundance, I thought later I had paid a good price for a useless property. However, the bees wintered well, and the following season my stock doubled. Then, and since, I have used principally the Simplicity hive. My stock has never exceeded twelve colonies, varying down to five. Doubtless for the first year or two my operations, if witnessed by an expert in the business, might have caused extensive smiles, if not convulsions. Often in the bungling manner in which they were handled many bees were killed, and it sometimes seemed that those remaining were trying to turn the table.

I have often regretted that I had not become interested in bees at an earlier date, as one to begin in middle life, or later, has that to learn which might have been earlier, and then would be better equipped and more likely to succeed. I am often made aware of my ignorance, and yet there has been a degree of improvement since buying the first colony, prior to which my knowledge did not extend far beyond the fact that bees will sting and gather honey.

About four years ago I built a narrow shed along the north side of my bee yard. It is seven feet high in front, four feet deep, two feet of the front from the top is closed in, below that a portico one foot in width extends the length of the structure. In the fall I move the hives back in the shed; in the spring move them forward so that the porticos will just cover the tops of the hives. I like this arrangement very well but see a chance for an improvement. In the swarming season, if there are more hives than can be accommodated in the shed, they are set in the open space in front. Ordinary winters I have no difficulty in keeping the fronts of the hives clear, but the unusual amount of snow the past winter has caused a hard fight to overcome the snow-drifts. I have had good success in wintering bees, having never lost but one colony, and that through carelessness in allowing them to starve. I have succeeded well in wintering colonies that were weak, not having a large amount of stores in the fall, by closing them up on a few well-filled combs, leaving no unnecessary space. Then about the middle of April begin to feed, gradually enlarging the space as needed. I have several times, by this method, brought such colonies up to a high standard by the time the bloom was on.

The yield of honey in this part of the country in 1897 was much below that of 1896. I find much enjoyment in the company of bees, studying their habits, etc. Often coming from the field weary, or, at times, perplexed by cares, I rest in the shade on the rustic seat and watch the "busy bees" until weariness passes away, or perplexity is forgotten.

J. F. HEATH.

East Thorndike, Me.

Milton, Mass., May 12, 1898.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Dear Sir—I am sending herewith a sample of beeswax which, you will notice, has holes in it. I suppose they are caused by the same moth that is spoken of in the May Bee-Keeper. This has been going on about seven months, and the dust or excrement upon the surface is being produced constantly.

Please reply through the Bee-Keeper.

Yours truly,
B. F. GREEN.

[The specimen submitted appears exactly as any cake of wax soon after being attacked by the moth previously mentioned as flourishing in the South; and Mr. Green's supposition is probably correct. Though, owing to their less vigorous work in a northern climate, it is doubtful if any material loss would result. During seven of the warmer months the destruction would doubtless have been greater; while a like period in the South would have reduced it almost to powder. The remarkable feature in this case is that their burrowing, though slight, continued through the winter.—Ed.]

The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.:

Gentlemen— I received the goods in due time in good condition and they are A No. 1 Yours, etc.,

CHARLES W. EGE,
Woodsville, N. J.

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F. J. WILSON,
Hebron, N. Y.

East Bloomfield, N. Y.,
Feb. 12, 1898.

W. T. Falconer Co., Jamestown, N. Y:

Dear Sirs—Inclosed find eighteen dollars and sixty-eight cents to balance account. Our dealings with you this year have been, as in many years past, very pleasant, and the goods all that any one could ask. In the fifty odd dollars' worth of supplies we had of you there was not a cent's worth of poor stock or shortage, and we can highly recommend your supplies. There may be just as good, but I doubt there being any better.

Very truly yours,
OLMSTEAD BROS.,
Per C. A. O.

P. S.—We will want as many or more supplies this year.

The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.:

Gentlemen—The goods you sent me are at hand, and I find them, as far as examined, very satisfactory.

Yours very truly,
JULIUS HOFFMAN,
Canajoharie, N. Y.

LITERARY NOTES.

Lilian Bell is now in Russia for the Ladies' Home Journal, and one of her recent achievements was to secure a photograph of the Czar with her own camera. This is most difficult to do in Russia, where every one with a camera becomes a suspect. But the Russian officers helped this bright American girl. Miss Bell will tell the story of her capture of the Czar in the June Journal.

—o—

Mrs. Cleveland recently had a new set of photographs taken, the first time she has been photographed since leaving the White House, and has given them to Mr. Bok, with permission to publish them in the Ladies' Home Journal, where they will be publicly seen for the first time. The set also includes the first authoritative photographs published of the new Princeton home of the Clevelands.

—o—

The May issue of table talk contains much good reading as well as helpful information. "The Edible Weeds and Grasses," are discussed by Miss Cornelia C. Bedford, who also ably conducts the departments of "Housekeepers' Inquiries" and "New Menus and Seasonabl Recipes," being an authority on all culinary and household matters. "The Passing of the Pie" is much regretted by Martha Bockee Flint. "Familiar Superstitions" are spoken of by Mrs. Burton Kingsland; "The Olive and its Oil," and the process through which they pass before placed on the market are described by Isabel Bates Winslow; Mrs. Jacobs tells of "Chocolate in Cookery." Some of the most recent books which are to hold their places in the literary world are mentioned by Mary Lloyd. Fashions are talked of by Tillie May Forney, while "The New Bill of Fare" by Mrs. M. C. Myer, touches upon many topics of interest to women of today. A sample copy of Table Talk is offered to any of our readers who will send their address to the Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

"HOW TO MANAGE BEES," a 50c. book, and the AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER a year for only 60 cents.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

BOSTON, MASS., May 16, 1898.—Our honey market is without change except that the demand has dropped off considerably, owing to the warmer weather. We quote our maket to-day—Fancy white in 1 lb. cartons, 13c.; No. 1 white in 1 lb. cartons, 12c.; No. 1 white in glass front cases 11@12c.; No. 2 do, 9@10c. Beeswax very scarce and in good demand, Pure stock would bring 28@29c per lb.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE,
57 Chatham Street.

NEW YORK, May 7, 1898.—Trade in honey is fairly active. Fancy white and buckwheat comb find quite ready sale with us. Trade in Southern California extracted has been very good the past few weeks. Beeswax in demand. We quote our market as follows—Fancy white comb honey, 11@12c.; fair white. 9@10c.; buckwheat, 6½@7c.; California water white extracted, 6½c.; California white, 6c ; California light amber, 5½c.; Southern extracted, 52½@55c. per gal.; N. Y. State extracted not in demand at present. Beeswax, 27½@28c. Write us for shipping instructions.

FRANCIS H. LEGGETT & CO.
Franklin and Varick Sts.

CLEVELAND, O., April 28, 1898.—We quote our market to-day as follows:—Fancy white, 12c; No. 1 white, 11c; Fancy amber, 9@10c; No. 1 amber, 8c; Fancy dark, 7c; White extracted, 6c; Amber, 5½c. Beeswax, 26c.

A. B. WILLIAMS & CO.,
80-82 Broadway.

CINCINNATI, O., Mar. 21, 1898.—The demand for extracted honey is fair, with short supply. Price, 4 to 6c. Slow demand for comb 10 to 13c. Good demand for beeswax with a fair supply Prices, 20to 25c. for good to choice yellow.

CHAS. F. MUTH & SON,
Cor. Freeman and Central aves.

DETROIT, MICH., Mar. 22, 1898.—Slow demand for honey, with good supply of lower grades. Price of light comb, 9 to 11c.; dark. 7 to 9c. Good demand for beeswax, with light supply Prices 26 to 27c per lb. The better grades of honey will be nearly all used up in a short time, but there will be considerable undesirable goods carried over.

M. H. HUNT,
Bell Branch, Mich.

KANSAS CITY, MO., Mar. 21, 1898.—Light demand for honey. Good supply. Price of comb, 8 to 10c. per lb. Extracted, 4½ to 5½c. per lb. Good demand for beeswax, with light supply, at 22 to 25c. per lb.

HAMBLIN & BEARSS,
514 Walnut Street.

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You May Have a Sample Bottle of the Great Discovery, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, Sent Free by Mail.

Men and women doctor their troubles so often without benefit, that they get discouraged and skeptical. In most such cases serious mistakes are made in doctoring and in not knowing what our trouble is and what makes us sick. The unmistakable evidences of kidney trouble are pain or dull ache in the back, too frequent desire to pass water, scanty supply, smarting irritation. As kidney disease advances the face looks sallow or pale, puffs or dark circles under the eyes, the feet swell and sometimes the heart acts badly. Should further evidence be needed to find out the cause of sickness, then set urine aside for twenty-four hours; if there is a sediment or settling it is also a convincing proof that our kidneys and bladder need doctoring. A fact often overlooked, is that women suffer as much from kidney and bladder trouble as men do.

Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root is the discovery of the eminent physician and scientist and is not recommended for everything, but will be found just what is needed in cases of kidney and bladder disorders or troubles due to uric acid and weak kidneys, such as catarrh of the bladder, gravel, rheumatism and Bright's disease, which is the worst form of kidney trouble. It corrects inability to hold urine and smarting in passing it, and promptly overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up many times during the night.

The mild and extraordinary effect of this great remedy is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures. Sold by druggists, price fifty cents and one dollar. So universally successful is Swamp-Root in quickly curing even the most distressing cases, that to prove its wonderful merit you may have a sample bottle and book of valuable information, both sent absolutely free by mail, upon receipt of three two-cent stamps to cover cost of postage on the bottle. Mention The American Bee-Keeper and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghampton, N. Y. This generous offer appearing in this paper is a guarantee of its genuineness.

Bishop McCabe, of New York, on Dr. James' Headache Powders.

"With regard to James' Headache Powders, I have no hesitation in commending them to suffers from headache. They relieve the pain speedily, and I have never known anyone to be harmed by their use. The Dr. James Headache Powders have, however, greatly relieved me at times, and I never allow myself to be without them, and have recommended them to others freely. "C. C. McCABE."

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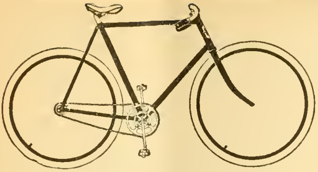

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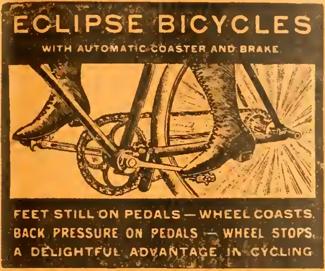
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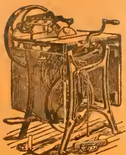

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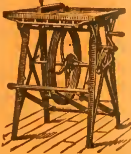

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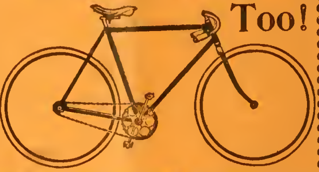

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A MONTHLY JOURNAL PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE INTERESTED IN BEES AND HONEY

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VOL. VIII. No. 7.

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Made substantial improvements with the beginning of the present year. It is printed on heavy, white book paper, from large, clear, new type, and has a cover of heavy cream, paradox paper printed in that warmest of all colors--claret. With each number there is also a frontispiece of some subject connected with bee-keeping, printed on heavy ivory enameled paper, These pictures are all half-tones made from photographs. That of December showed a comb badly infected with foul brood. January showed eight sections of comb honey, four of them in the old style of sections and four in the plain style. It is an object lesson worth seeing. The one for February shows a beautiful view of an out-apiary in the wilds of Wisconsin, a really picturesque view. March frontispiece is a scene in a sugar-maple forest in Michigan. So much by the way of mechanical improvements; but it is more difficult to describe the information it contains. Perhaps the best that can be said is that never before has there been so much pains taken to secure the best of correspondence—to get the views and experiences of the very best bee-keepers.

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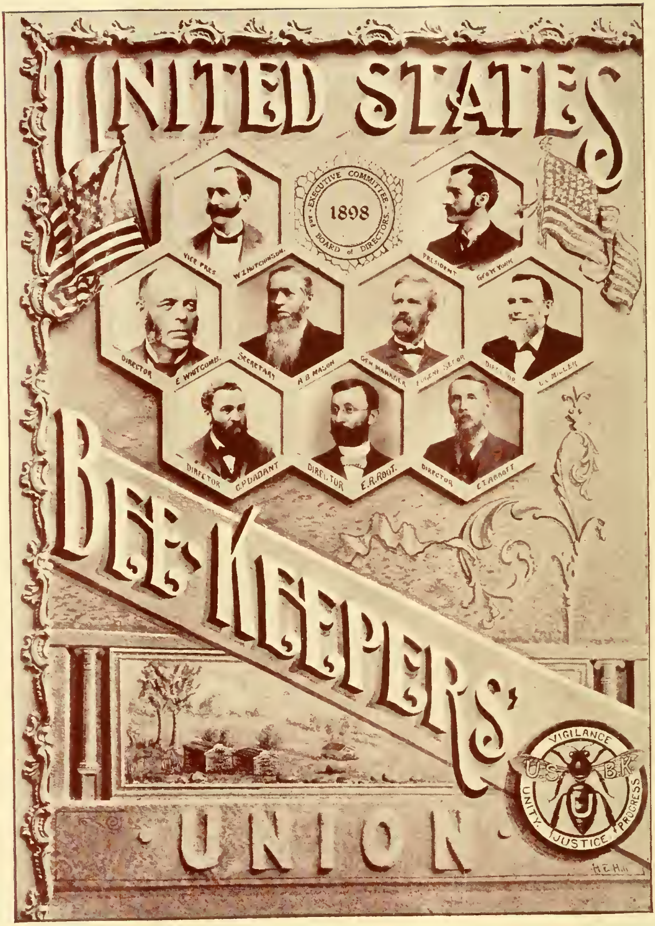
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See Article by the General Manager, and Editorial in This Number.

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. JULY, 1898. No. 7.

The Power of Association.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY HON. EUGENE SECOR.

IT ought not to be necessary, at this late date in the nineteenth century to offer any extended argument to prove the power and value of organized effort.

There was a time in the history of mankind when the individual seemed to be a more potent factor in society and business than at present. There was a time when every man builded his own home and defended it by his own right arm. There was a time when every successful enterprise was projected and carried to completion by personal enterprise, personal valor or personal wealth.

Even after tribal relations had been established and tribal protection guarteed, success depended almost entirely on individual exertion. Cities were built, large mechanical transactions attempted and cattle ranches established, all without syndicates.

But the world is a little older than it was. Society has changed in some respects. Almost everything is done differently from what it used to be. Now, instead of every man being his own banker, and carrying his money in the sack when he goes down into Egypt to buy corn, he writes his check on New York or London. Business methods have so improved that a dollar goes farther in transacting the world's business than it did in the old time. This has been brought about through organization and combination. A great many individual dollars brought together through associated effort may be made to produce effects which never could have been brought about by the same individuals acting each for himself and independently.

Organization has become the great fact of the age. No railroads are built by individual capital. No steamship lines are owned and controlled by one man. Great commercial enterprises are launched and sustained by combined capital and organized effort. Corporations have taken the place of the once single-handed manufacturer until it is hardly possible for one man, without capital, to compete with corporate wealth.

Since the busines of the world is largely done by great corporations the trade guilds have been a natural outgrowth, because the only way to meet organization is by counter organization. Men lay their heads together, form alliances for mutual protection and thereby gain strength impossible to the single worker.

Men interested in a common purpose are enabled to unite on a common plan of action and work to some effect. For instance, it is too large a job for one bee-keeper to attempt to fight adulteration of honey, but if he can combine his efforts with that of ten thousand other bee-keepers, all acting in unison, and that organization acting with other associations interested in the subject of pure food, together they may accomplish something.

As government in this country is constituted, the powers that be are ready to listen to anyone who represents a considerable body of voters, if the said voters "mean business."

When a politician is asked to support a measure he wants to know how many of his constituents are anxious about it.

All other trades and professions are organized for mutual help and protection. Bee-keepers should have one organization so strong in numbers and influence that their rights shall be respected. The object of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union is to fill this long felt want. Its purpose is twofold—to promote legislation helpful to bee-keepers and to act as the guardian of their legal rights.

Forest City, Iowa.

Some Points in Comb Honey Production.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

LET us suppose that the harvest from white clover is at its beginning. To each colony I would be glad to give a super filled with partly drawn combs saved from the fall of the previous year. Combs that are fully drawn had better be leveled down with the Taylor comb leveler. Better still, such combs should have been completed the previous autumn by feeding back. Combs not more than two-thirds drawn will be nice and smooth when completed, even if they have not been leveled down before using. If the honey flow opens with a rush the benefit of drawn combs in the first super is not so great, but when it opens gradually, and slowly increases, the bees, especially if Italians, are slow about beginning work in the sections. They will crowd every available space in the brood nest, and perhaps swarm, before going into the supers, unless they are filled with comb. In the latter case they are prompt to go into the sections with the first drop of honey that can be spared from the brood nest. The putting of the honey into the supers relieves the pressure upon the brood nest; allows the more complete filling of the brood nest with brood, and turns the energy of the colony towards the storing of surplus honey instead of towards swarming. A super of partly drawn combs at the opening of the harvest has proved nearly as valuable to me as a super of completed sections.

So long as a colony does not swarm, I simply add supers upon the tiering-up plan. When the sections in the first super are half or two-thirds full I raise it and put another super beneath it. I always fill sections full of foundation, and believe that in my locality, where the flow is usually short but good, that it pays to use foundation in this manner.

When a colony sends out a swarm, the swarm is hived in a contracted brood nest upon the old stand, the supers transferred to the swarm, and the old colony placed by the side of the swarm for a week, when it is carried to a new location. This plan throws all of the working force into the sections at a critical time—when the white clover or basswood is yielding its best. Little or no surplus is expected from the old colony, unless the swarming has taken place early or the harvest is unusually prolonged. As a rule I use starters only in the brood nest, contracting the space to about five Langstroth frames, or to one section of the new Heddon hive. With this management all of the honey that a newly-hived swarm brings in must of necessity go into the sections, and as fast as comb is built in the brood nest it is occupied by the queen. A queen excluder is necessary; if it is not used, the queen will at once invade the partly completed combs in the super.

As to whether it is best to wait until all of the sections of a case are completed before removing it depends upon circumstances. If honey is not coming in very freely, and the colony is not crowded for room, rather than to tier the cases more than three high, I would wait until all the combs are completed; or at least until only one or two in each corner remains unfinished. If honey comes in very rapidly it sometimes happens that some colonies will have three cases of sections full of honey with only a few of them capped. In such cases I might remove a case in which only half of its sections were capped; but rather than do this I would take a nearly finished case (bees and all) from a three-case colony and give it to a colony having only one or two cases. I have done this way many times and see no objection to the plan. I prefer to use bee-escapes in removing supers, although it can be done without by using smoke to drive down most of the bees. If the harvest is good and no robbers are troubling, the case may then be set down near the entrance, or leaned against the hive in such a way that the few remaining bees may find their way back into the hive. If there are robbers, then the cases must be carried into a room and the bees allowed to escape upon a window from which they can crawl out at the top. When the sections are free from bees I sort them over and put the unfinished ones in a case by themselves. When a case is filled it is given back to the bees to have them complete the sections.

Apiary of W. Z. Hutchinson.

When the season is finally over, sections that are one-half or more finished are completed by feeding back. Sections less than half finished are placed on top of colonies that are the lightest in stores, and the bees allowed to carry down the honey. The combs thus emptied are saved to give the bees a start the next spring.

Colonies that are weak as the result of contractions of the brood nest, are united in September. Before uniting two colonies I remove the queen from one of them, leaving it queenless a day or two, then unite by simply setting the queenless one upon the top of the other. The quarreling or loss of queens from this method of uniting has been so slight that it is not worth considering.

The accompanying engraving, showing a portion of my apiary, was made from a photograph taken in August when the supers were off the hives.

Flint, Mich., June 6, 1898.

Management for Extracted Honey

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY JOHN NEWTON.

IN running an apiary as I do, partly for comb and partly for extracted honey, I usually select the strongest and best colonies for comb honey, and the rest are run for "extracted." When the spring work has been done—such as clipping queens' wings, etc., and before the honey season opens—I see that my extracting combs and supers are clean and in proper condition for the honey season. My supers are the same size as the brood chambers, only one comb less is used; eight combs 8¼x16¼ comprising my extracting super.

As the season opens, my supers and queen excluders are brought from the store-room, the smoker is lighted and the bees smoked, the excluder placed over the brood chamber and one super is put over the excluder on all colonies to be run for extracting honey, and are strong enough to need room. After the honey flow fairly opens, I make it a rule to see what is being done in the supers, or colonies not yet having extra room; so that if more room is needed it may be given at once. I never allow a shortage of room for storing. In doing so, two objects are sought: One is to discourage swarming from over-loading, and the other is to receive the greatest amount of surplus honey. I run all colonies two stories high. When super No. 1 is about two-thirds full, it is raised and super No. 2 placed under it.

I might here say for those who have not so many spare combs, that it can be worked by extracting one-half of the combs at a time, always placing the combs with the most honey to the centre of the hives. By doing this, you will get well-ripened honey, and it does not allow the bees to be over-crowded, or in need of store room.

As the season advances, and in four or five days after you have placed on your second super, super No. 1 will be ready for extracting, but here let us be sure that our honey is well ripened before extracting. We all know that nectar which the bees collect from the flowers is thin and watery, and must be fully evaporated to make the best honey. The bee-keeper should be equally wise and not extract his honey until it is capped over. This requires a little more labor of uncapping, but then we get honey far superior, and the wax for our trouble. We do not want honey that has been ripened artificially. All honey should be allowed to ripen in the hives; the honey will have a better body and is superior in flavor.

Now we must see that our extracting and store rooms are in good order—everything clean and tidy. When visitors come to see me I never feel ashamed to show them into my extracting room; I know they will not be disgusted and depart saying, "I do not want to eat any extracted honey if every bee-keeper is as dirty as Newton; it is not fit to eat."

I have seen extracting rooms all daubed and sticky, and the bee-keeper, also. Let us put a good clean article on the market and command a good price. Have our extracting and store rooms in good order, the extractor placed in position on a box or bench in good order and high enough to let a pail under the tap, the honey cans the same in the store room with our strainer secured around the top, uncapping can placed in position, our knife sharp, dish of warm water to place the knife in when not in use uncapping; which will assist much in the work. My uncapping can is just an oblong box with a bent tin so as to drain the honey to one end and run it in a dish. My screen for holding the cappings is one of the screens of my solar wax extractor. When the screen is full it is placed in the solar, and another one put in its place, and if it is a nice, sunny day the same night we will have no cappings to wash for vinegar, but they will be into nice yellow wax, and the honey which was in them can be placed in the store can none the worse for going through the solar.

Now, when everything is ready—the comb box, wheelbarrow, and the smoker going good—I proceed to the bee-yard and go around to those hives from which I wish to extract, placing the entrance blocks on, and giving a few puffs of smoke. This will cause an excitement and warm up the honey, and will greatly aid in extracting. We must be cautious not to give too much smoke, which injures the flavor of the honey. Now proceed to that part of the yard at which you wish to start, and after giving a few more puffs of smoke in the top, tear off the quilt and take out one comb, placing it at the entrance so as to give more room in the hive to shake and brush the bees from the combs, and prevent killing and making the bees angry, placing each comb as the bees are cleaned from them into the comb box. After all combs are out, close down hive, remove entrance blocks, and proceed to the extracting room. Uncap and extract. A little caution must be taken in turning the extractor; start slow, gradually getting up speed, and there is not much danger of breaking the combs. After extracting, place the combs to one side until evening, then replace them on the hives. If I was working, as I mentioned before, extracting the half super at a time, I would carry a set of combs with me and replace them as soon as the full ones are taken out. After the day's extracting is over and all honey is run into store cans, cover up the extractor, uncapping dish, etc., so as to keep them clean until needed again, and thus I work on until the honey season is over. During the last extracting the bee-tent is usally brought into use to prevent robbing.

After the extracting season is finally over and all combs extracted, they are piled three high on hives, with a quilt between the brood chamber and supers, with a corner turned back to allow the bees to clean them up, or, if placed in the yard some distance from bees, tiered up, and combs spaced to allow bees access to them, they will soon clean them up. But I prefer the former way, as it does not cause the same excitement. After combs are clean and sweet they are again placed in the store room with a sheet of paper between each, until they are wanted again the following spring.

Thamesford, Ont.

When Unite Weak Colonies.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

MUCH has been written on the subject of uniting bees that come out weak in the spring, but from many inquiries which I receive it would seem that this is a subject on which "line upon line" must appear before it will be so done that the best success may be obtained. When I first began to keep bees I was told that early spring was the time to unite weak colonies; but from years of experience I have learned that such weak colonies will often "pull through" alone, while, if united, all may perish. The why for this seems to lie in the fact that by thus uniting, an excitement is caused which wears out the nearly exhausted life of the old bees which then compose the little colonies, so that they die before the young bees are sufficiently mature to take up the labor of sustaining the colony, thus causing the loss of the whole thing. Being left, as they were, without uniting, they seem to realize their condition, so no great amount of extra labor is performed until the young bees are sufficiently mature to stand the "heat and battle of the day," after which such weak colonies build up quite rapidly.

After learning that early spring was not the time to unite weak colonies, I began studying on the matter, and experimenting considerable also, which led me to adopt the following plan, which has proved very successful in my apiary: In early spring, all the colonies which I think will not make good strong colonies by the middle of June are shut to one side of the hive, upon only as many combs as contain brood, by means of a movable division board, which number of combs will be from one to five, according to the strength of the colony. They are thus kept shut up till said combs are full of brood.

For feed, I generally set a frame of honey beyond the division board, the carrying of which stimulates brood rearing wonderfully. When the strongest of these weak colonies have their five frames full of brood, I take one of them away and give it to one having four frames nearly or quite filled, always taking a frame where I can see plenty of young bees gnawing at the cappings to the cells. An empty frame is put in the centre to take the place of the hatching brood, which will soon be filled with eggs. It is not best to give this frame of brood to one of the weakest colonies at this time, as some advise, for by so doing a part of the brood is apt to be lost, should a cold spell occur, for the bees in the weakest are not yet sufficiently numerous to care for more brood than they already have.

In about a week I take a frame of brood from each colony having five frames filled, (this including the one I gave the frame of brood to the week previous), and give a frame to each colony having only three frames filled. Thus I keep on taking from the strongest and giving to the next stronger until all have five frames of bees and brood, giving brood the latest to the weakest of the little ones. Now, having all of them with five frames of brood, I proceed to unite as follows: I go to No. 1 and look it over until I find the frame the queen is on, which with bees, queen and all, I set over in the vacant side of the hive. I now take the four remaining frames, bees and all, and set them in a box made for carrying combs, when I set the frame having the queen upon it, back where it was, placing an empty frame beside it and adjusting the division board to suit, when the hive is closed.

Next, I take the box of combs and proceed to No. 2, which is opened and the division board taken out. I now take the first frame next to where the division board stood and place it next to the opposite side of the hive, when I take a frame from the box, bees and all, as taken from No. 1, and place next the moved frame in No. 2. Next I move another frame in No. 2 up to the one taken from the box, when another is taken from the box and placed beside this, and so on until the four frames from the box are alternated with No. 2. As my hives hold nine frames, it will be seen that I now have in No. 2 nine frames completely filled with brood, which will soon make a very populous colony, and one which will gather honey and store it in sections to the best advantage. In this way I keep at work until all are united, and the sequel always shows a better result from these united colonies than from those that were considered the very best in the spring.

Some may fear that the queen in No. 2 might be killed in this way, but I have never known a queen to be killed when bees were thus mixed up at any season of the year, and much less now, providing the queen was one that belonged to one of the colonies to be united. I also often make new colonies by taking a frame of brood, bees and all, from several hives and setting them all in an empty hive, letting a strange queen run in amongst them as soon as the frames are arranged, and I have never yet lost a queen, providing she was one taken from a hive in my own apiary; but a queen which has been shipped some distance will sometimes be killed if she is thus let among the bees. The same holds true regarding a queen which has been long caged in my own apiary. Why this is I do not know, unless it is that the queen, which is not ready to lay eggs at once, runs about more, not attending to her business, till the bees become dissatisfied with her. It is a fact worth "pasting in your hat" that only strong colonies will store honey to the best advantage, and all colonies set apart for surplus honey should be strong just when the honey harvest is on, and even did I not manipulate colonies exactly as above, I would unite all colonies on this or some similar plan, which were not strong enough to take advantage of the honey harvest when it arrived; keeping an eye on the flora producing my crop, and doing the uniting from five to eight days before the harvest would be likely to begin.

Of course, where bees are the thing wanted, the little colonies would build up to good strong colonies by fall and go into winter with abundant stores to carry them through, should the fall flow of honey prove anything like good.

Borodino, N. Y.

The Australian Bee Bulletin for April says: "H. E. Hill is now the editor of the American Bee Journal." The similarity of names is doubtless responsible for the antipodal confusion. But we can stand it if Brother York can.

Under date of June 4, J. B. Case, of Florida, writes: "We are having quite a honey flow lately. Best colonies may fill two ten-frame supers." Good for Volusia county!

Our readers may note that Mr. Doolittle is about the only man in this state who has had time to write us a letter for publication this month. But we are glad they are busy. We will probably have some big reports for next month.

Dr. A. B. Mason, secretary of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, wrote to the American Bee Journal May 30. that he, as secretary of the Union, recently effected a settlement with a large city honey dealer for over three tons of honey that had been shipped to him last fall by a member of the Union. It's so easy when one belongs to the Union. It's the Union's business to shoulder these difficulties for its members.

A theory long held by C. Theilmann, of Minnesota, is that the sex of bees is determined not by the will of the queen as generally accepted, but by different nourishment administered by the nurse bees to the young larva, in a similar manner to the transformation that is effected by them in developing a queen from an egg that would under other treatment produce an ordinary worker. In support of his position Mr. Theilmann, in the American Bee Journal, directs attention to recent discoveries reported to have been made by Prof. Schenk, of Vienna, to be given to the world by the Scientific Academy, and by which it will be demonstrated to an incredulous world that by proper nourishment to the female in the higher order of animals, the professor can and does regulate the sexes at will. This being the case, Mr. Theilmann asks, "what would hinder the bees producing their sexes at will, by the same means, also?"

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EDITORIAL.

We have recently had a most enjoyable visit with Mr. Paul VanSyckle, of Porto Rico. Mr. VanSyckle was for a number of years located in Cuba, where we made his acquaintance and enjoyed his hospitalities. An apiary at San Juan, Porto Rico, constitutes a part of his present industrial interests, of which he expects to soon be in charge again. He relates a story of home markets, good prices, profusion of nectar-yielding flowers and general favorable conditions that makes us fairly "homesick" for a Porto Rican bee ranch.

DEATH OF CHARLES F. MUTH.

Mr. Charles F. Muth, senior member of the firm of Chas. F. Muth & Son, Cincinnati, whose advertisement and market quotations appear regularly in The Bee-Keeper, committed suicide by shooting on May 16th. The rash act is thought to have been committed in a moment of temporary insanity, resulting from a sunstroke, which he suffered several years ago.

It is doubtful if there exists in the United States today a commission house that has succeeded in winning the same degree of confidence among the honey-producing fraternity as that of which the name of Chas. F. Muth has been at the head since our earliest recollection. The fact that Mr. Muth was, himself, a bee-keeper, may in part explain the cause of this confidence, which became the basis of a very extensive and successful business, as inferred from the reputed extent of his fortune; which is said to have reached hundreds of thousands.

Deceased was about 65 years of age, and is survived by a wife and six grown children.

THE SUPPLY TRADE.

A peculiarity of the bee-keepers' supply trade, is that general business conditions of the country are no index of the probable extent of orders for the season. While other factories and mills are booming, the "supply" factory may be idle for lack of orders, and vice versa.

Last year was a good one for the supply men, though there was no indication that it would be followed by the largest business in the history of the trade; which appears to have been the case. The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co. is just now permitted for the first time in three months, to pause for breath; a thing which it would not yet be able to do, had the management not put forth a most determined effort to avoid disappointing their patrons in caring for the unprecedented volume of business, which, judging from the reports that have come to us, they have succeeded in doing much more promptly than their competitors; a fact duly appreciated by their customers and noted with gratification by the company. The grand rush of business which has taxed the manufacturing facilities of the country beyond their capacity, must necessarily have resulted in disappointment to many who delayed ordering too late. The lesson contains an obvious moral, and the advantages of early ordering will be realized more keenly in the future.

MOVING BEES—SOME PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.

The occasional reference to this subject in current bee literature, bearing evidence, as it does, of a general interest in the preparation and care of bees in transportation, together with the many requests received from our readers for more of our personal experience in The Bee-Keeper, are the only apologies we have to offer for devoting so much space this month to a subject that we had grown to regard as pretty well worn.

But here we are reminded that each year adds to our fraternity many young members, from whose ranks must develop the Doolittles, the Heddons, the Hutchinsons, etc., of the future. And their enthusiastic missives, pleading for light upon the subject of their newly-awakened interest, recall personal experiences eminently calculated to incite a deep appreciation of our pleasant privilege, and present duty, to freely impart to this most earnest and ever-hopeful multitude, whatever aid may be derived from the lessons of our own bee-keeping life.

At some period in the life of most bee-keepers the matter of moving becomes one of personal and direct interest. If this condition transpires during his earlier day in the business, considerable anxiety is involved, and information from every available source is eagerly sought; while, though not having had occasion to give the subject previous consideration, the experienced apiarist who finds himself making preparations for a move, does so almost instinctively. Every detail tending to success in the projected move receives minute attention, without an anxious thought as to the result. Guided by a thorough knowledge of their characteristic peculiarities and requirements, gained by years of practical work, the bees' every need is considered and provided for; and necessary variations, conforming to varying conditions, are readily recognized by the practiced eye, and treatment is accordingly applied.

That it would be impossible to give stated rules for the preparation and care of bees in moving, that would suit all cases, is one lesson which our experience will illustrate.

The transportation of bees in box hives is rarely practiced beyond a local move, which we have upon several occasions accomplished with success by simply confining the bees with a strip of wire screen over the entrance, loading them into a wagon and driving to the new location. The combs in such hives are secured naturally, and after having been in use for several years are very tough, so that no special care need be observed in handling; and to facilitate loading compactly, may be carried bottom upwards as safely as in their natural position.

There is one rule, however, that has a general application in preparing bees for a move—one that is effected neither by the style of hives, extent of the trip or other conditions—viz: Always carry a wad of cotton batting as a ready and effectual means of checking any possible escape of bees that may occur.

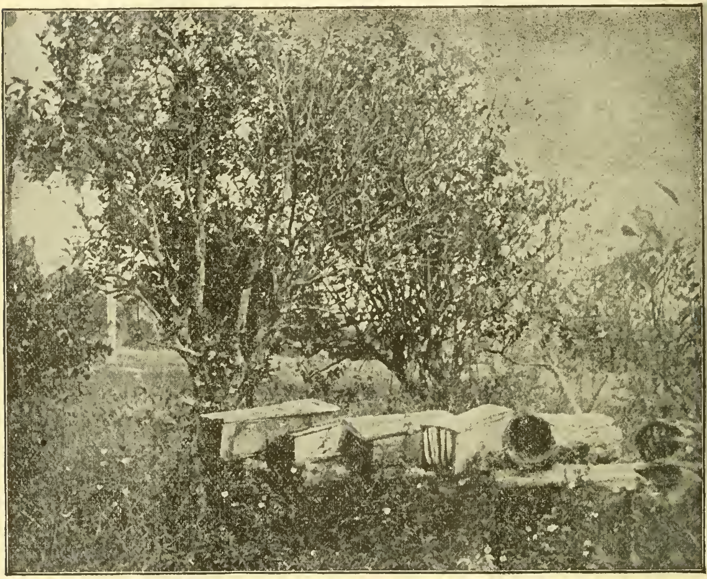
Under certain favorable conditions bees may be kept confined to their hives in transit for weeks, with perfect safety; while under the excitement of adverse circumstances they may die within a few hours. It is a fact also worthy of note that as bees differ in temperament, otherwise displayed, so are some colonies disposed to take confinement seriously, and keep up a constant hue of complaint; while others, under the same treatment, cluster quietly, and appear to appreciate the comforts provided by their thoughtful keeper.

In the fall of 1886, having been engaged to establish an apiary on the south coast of Cuba, we purchased fifteen strong, three-frame nuclei from a breeder in Ocean county, New Jersey. They were shipped by express to New York as the beginning of their fifteen days' trip, where they were placed in an empty room for two days to await the deferred sailing of the steamer. Upon each screened top was placed a sponge saturated with water; and a space of one inch was left over the frames, which were secured by notched sticks across the bottom, into which the bottom-bars rested.

On the third day they were loaded upon a dray, driven to the wharf and carried aboard the Ward Line steamship, Cienfuegos, bound for Havana, and placed forward on the main deck, where they remained during the voyage and were carefully watched.

They would sometimes become restless as a result of insufficient ventilation; or, as often, from too much draft or excessive heat, and were promptly treated accordingly. On hot days a sprinkling of salt sea water was administered to each colony. That they appreciated these showerings was shown by the greedy manner in which the last drop was invariably taken up, while the sponges, soaked with fresh water, were receiving little or no attention.

Arriving at Havana four days later, they were transferred to lighters and taken ashore along with other freight, where they were objects of great interest to the assembled Havanese in the government warehouse, in which


A Cuban Apiary.

they were placed with our other supplies during the customary routine of business which every foreign importation involves.

The business manager of the new firm, by which we were employed, being a Spaniard, our duties were confined to the care of the bees, which were evidently a great novelty to the interested crowd, who, much to our discomfort and the bees' displeasure, persisted in blowing tobacco smoke through the screens. Our knowledge of the Spanish language rendered any verbal admonition out of the question entirely, though with some emphasis a rebuke in our native tongue proved equally as effectual.

After a stop of three days in Havana the bees were removed to the railway station and under our personal care, taken to Batabano, a small town on the south coast, which has since been demolished by the insurgents. Here they were transferred to a coastwise steamer for another sea voyage of 160 miles over the Caribbean to Cienfuegos, a considerable seaport, recently advertised extensively. Here, again, they remained confined for three days while we were selecting a permanent location for the apiary, which was finally decided upon about three miles back from the city, whence they were taken upon a huge native cart, placed upon their new stands and liberated. Not to exceed 200 bees were found dead in the hives, queens were all lively and brood in good condition; and during the first hour of freedom in their new tropical home, many returned from a prospecting tour with abdomens distended and pollen-baskets filled.

Our plans were to buy native colonies, transfer them to Langstroth frames and Italianize from the stock we had taken from the United States; hence the end of the foregoing moving experience was the beginning of another more tedious and widely different. One hundred colonies of native stock were now required to carry our arrangement into effect, and there being no bee-keepers in the vicinity we were obliged to look them up in the interior, from five to twenty miles distant, and move them upon ox-carts to our new location. From the most inaccessible places it was necessary to "pack" them upon the back of mules.

To describe the irregular, dilapidated boxes and logs with open ends, of various lengths and sizes, scattered about the yards, which constitute "a Cuban apiary," is a task that we have vainly attempted in the past. The accompanying picture which we are permitted to show our readers through the courtesy of Gleanings in Bee Culture, will give but a meagre idea of the appearance of the "average" Cuban bee-yard, as the proprietor of the apiary shown was evidently a man of exceptional thrift and energy, as evidenced by the uniform size of "las colmenas," and his his thoughtfulness in thus elevating them from the ground. The conclusion is strengthened by the apparent fact that of the six hives shown, not to exceed two or three are rotten enough to necessitate wrapping with rope before moving, a substantial condition rarely met in Santa Clara province. It will serve well, however, to show exactly the appearance of a small Cuban apiary, with the white combs protruding from the ends of two of the "skeps," and shaded by orange trees. If the view was from the opposite position, it is quite likely the combs would be exposed to view in the other four, as the colony usually inclines to one end or the other. The white flowers in the foreground are probably the honey-yielding bellflower, of which we will have more to say in a future issue, as we will also of the work of moving and transferring over a hundred of these native colonies, and other moving experiences in detail, in Florida and other countries.

Subscribe for The Bee-Keeper.

DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS.

Notwithstanding the good work that has been done of late in defense of the bee-keepers' rights by the National Bee-Keepers' Union, cases are constantly coming up whereby bee-keepers are subject to great annoyance and often expense, as a result of some real or imaginary grievance of neighbors.

Publishers of apicultural journals, to a greater extent than any other class, have these instances brought to their notice by these "victims of spleen," who seek counsel and assistance in their hours of trouble. We venture to say that there is not an editor in the whole country who does not, in such cases, regret his inability to render substantial aid. They can advise, of course; but the best advice of which we know is this: "Get into the Union, dear brother, and your future difficulties will be taken in hand by the ablest legal talent in the land, backed by an adequate fund, which will insure justice to your rights and interests. And in the event of your good fortune to escape further trouble in this line, it will be a source of satisfaction to know that you are assisting others to hold their rights against the unjust accusations of misguided and ignorant persons.

Trouble is brewing for a bee-keeper in Northampton county, Pa., as we learn by a letter just received. He has kept bees for fifteen years without a thought of any unpleasantness; but, like hundreds of others, his hour has come; and, we regret sincerely to state, he has no claim upon the Union's protection.

UNITED STATES BEE-KEEPERS' UNION.

It is with more than ordinary pleasure that The American Bee-Keeper places before its readers this month a collection of portraits of those who at present hold office in America's greatest bee-keeping organization — the United States Bee-Keepers' Union.

The future of bee-keeping in the United States will be exactly what we make it, and it really seems to us that we cannot too highly esteem the opportunity afforded by the Union to join hands in one grand effort tending to the uplifting of our industry. The general manager well says the enterprise is too great to be attempted by any individual, but, by association with such able representative men as those at present in office, who are serving from purely fraternal motives, and without other compensation than the pleasure of thus assisting the cause of American bee-keeping, how simple the matter becomes, and how easily the long-hoped-for results may be achieved.

From all that has appeared in the platforms of other societies as being most desirable and important to promote the general interests of our industry, the U. S. B. K. U. has been evolved; and today as never before we, as bee-keepers, are privileged to assert with becoming dignity and effective force, our claims to recognition among the great and growing industries of the nation.

We have no inclination to question the claim made by all associations, to have some special field of usefulness, beneficial in some degree to the interests of their members, socially or financially; yet we think it doubtful if, prior to the advent of this modern and progressive association, any American bee-keepers' organization has had as its basis, a constitution of sufficient breadth and so far-reaching in its scope of useful and important work as to render its support an obligatory duty.

The constitution was published in The Bee-Keeper for October, 1897, and copies of the same may be had by addressing the secretary, Dr. A. B. Mason, Station B, Toledo, Ohio.

Now is the time to subscribe for The Bee Keeper.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Rutledge, Pa., June 13, 1898.

Dear Editor—I saw in a bee journal recently a suggestion about getting rid of the after effects of foul brood by pouring kerosene on the inside of the hive and igniting it. It strikes me that if heat be the thing wanted, a plumber's gasoline torch would be just the thing, because it generates an intense heat. Some apiarians are using formalin in solution.

M. F. REEVE.

United States Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.
June 7, 1898.

W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co., Falconer N. Y.

Dear Sirs—The hive material ordered from you recently was duly received, and has given satisfaction—in fact, though I have bought bee-supplies to a greater or less extent every year for twenty-five years past, I have never seen greater accuracy nor any better material than your goods show.

Yours truly,
FRANK BENTON.

Verdoy, N. Y., March 28, 1898.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Dear Sir—Permit me to say for the benefit of your readers, that in wintering out of doors in an eight-frame hive, I find it an advantage to remove one frame—leaving but seven. In this way you get more bees together and they are kept warmer. Give a little ventilation at the top, and if the seven frames are full of honey they will winter out of doors all right, without protection. And furthermore, without protection they feel the cold winds strike the outside of the hive and will not come out every bright day to be chilled and die, which they will do if protected on the northwest, as I have proven during the past winter. You cannot freeze a colony to death that has plenty of stores and ventilation. Heat without ventilation produces mould, and that is what kills the bees. The cover was blown off of one of my hives last winter when the mercury was twenty degrees below zero, and when I found it the bees' only covering was a piece of canvass, still they came through all right.

Yours truly,
E. CHARLES McCLEARY.

Freeport, Me., April 5, 1898.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Dear Sir—I began my bee-keeping with two colonies in the fall of 1894, never having anything to do with them before, and I now have eight in good condition this spring; have sold some to keep the number small. The winter of '94 I put my two colonies in the attic, but found the temperature so uneven that I lost most of the bees before it was time to put them out doors. In April one built up rapidly and gave me two swarms and twenty pounds of honey that season, while the other failed to swarm or make any honey. The next winter I used dry goods boxes for outside cases, after filling the half-story full of fine hay from the lawn. I set them in the boxes facing the southeast and then filled the box full of hay and leaves. My only trouble with that was the rain running through and freezing around the hives, still, with that trouble the bees wintered well. Two years ago I built a bee house for summer and winter use, large enough for nineteen colonies. I use portico hives and fit the front into openings left in the walls for that purpose. My bees are thus protected from wet and heat of summer, and still may pass freely in and out at any time. The house is of benefit in cool nights in summer and fall, when the bees have been at work in the field through the day; it holds the heat so that bees will stay at work all night in sections, when, if left out of doors, they will all go down to the brood and leave the sections until the middle of the next forenoon, thus making a loss for the beekeeper. This fall I intend to buy an extractor so as to extract partly-filled sections, and some from full frames.

Yours respectfully,
WILLIS SNOW.

BEE BREVITIES.

If you receive more than one copy of The Bee-Keeper, kindly hand the extra one to some one else who is interested in bees.

—o—

Californians are rejoiced over a couple of showers of rain which fell upon them in May. But they came too late to effect the sage honey crop.

—o—

We now have the National Queen-Breeders' Union; organized for the protection of queen buyers and reliable breeders. J. O. Grimsley, Byrdstown, Tenn., is secretary of the new association.

—o—

Delos Wood, in Gleanings, thinks it is the people who rely upon the capping of honey to determine its fitness to extract, who put the unripe honey upon the markets. He extracts before it is capped, then evaporates to the desired consistency, which, he says, is not less than twelve pounds to the gallon.

—o—

In the Canadian Bee Journal D. W. Heise says: "I just want to whisper that if better filled sections are really desired by honey producers and consumers, and freer communication will bring about that result, I think I know how it can be secured to a far greater extent than can possibly be done with the plain section and fence, as now advocated." That's what is wanted, Mr. Heise. Launch your idea.

A short-bladed putty-knife is a most convenient tool when taking off supers. It is in fact very handy every day in the apiary.

—o—

The mechanical genius of the beekeeping fraternity is now being brought to bear upon devices for cleaning sections of honey by machinery.

—o—

Mr. E. M. Storer, who has two hundred colonies in the vicinity of the great Okefinokee swamp in Southern Georgia, writes that while he has considerable stock of extracted honey of this year's crop on hand in 60-pound cans and 500-pound barrels, destructive forest fires are responsible for a much shorter crop than would otherwise have been obtained. Our southern friends seem to be "catching it" all around from fires this year. Our own apiary in South Florida has been no exception.

—o—

J. H. Martin, author of the popular "Rambler" series of articles in Gleanings, has forsaken the parched valleys of Southern California and sought the more propitious conditions existing in Siskiou county, several hundred miles farther north, where he is wrestling with about 240 dilapidated Harbison hives. Under date of May 28, Mr. Martin writes that notwithstanding the severe drouth with which the southern counties of the state are afflicted this year, and by which a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars will result to their honey, fruit and sugar beet industries, that alfalfa fields of his present location have been amply watered by frequent rains, and the prospects for a honey crop are favorable. When the Rambler started north in quest of pastures new, we thought he would "turn up" about Honey Lake, but the still more enticing name of Oro Fino attracted him still farther, and he is now located in that isolated mining camp, near the Oregon line.

If you should receive an extra copy of The Bee-Keeper, kindly hand it to some friend interested in bees. By so doing you may render a two-fold service.

W. M. Gerrish, East Nottingham, N. H., is agent for our supplies. Bee-keepers in his vicinity can save freight by ordering of him.

BEGINNERS.

Beginners should have a copy of the Amateur Bee-Keeper, a 70-page book, by Prof. J. W. Rouse; written especially for amateurs. Second edition just out. First edition of 1,000 sold in less than two years. Editor York says: "It is the finest little book published at the present time." Price 25 cents; by mail, 28c. The little book and the Progressive Bee-Keeper (a live, progressive, 28 page monthly journal) one year for 65c. Apply to any first-class dealer or address

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T. F. BINGHAM, Farwell, Mich.

Foundation Advances.

Owing to the scarcity of Beeswax and the consequent high price of same, we re compelled to advance the prices of Foundation 5 cents per pound, on catalog prices.

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Bishop McCabe, of New York, on Dr. James' Headache Powders.

"With regard to James' Headache Powders, I have no hesitation in commending them to suffers from headache. They relieve the pain speedily, and I have never known anyone to be harmed by their use. The Dr. James Headache Powders have, however, greatly relieved me at times, and I never allow myself to be without them, and have recommended them to others freely. "C. C. McCABE."

For sale by H. W. Davis, Falconer, N. Y.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

NEW YORK, June 14 —Demand for Comb is slow at 10@12c for white; Extracted is bringing 4½@6¼c, with good demand. Supply of Beeswax is light with active demand at 28@30c. We would advise shipments of Extracted Honey and Beeswax.

FRANCIS H. LEGGETT & CO.
Franklin and Varick Sts.

DETROIT, MICH., June 15, 1898.—No demand for honey, with none in sight. Comb, market bare. Extracted, 5@6c. Good demand for Beeswax, with light supply. Prices. 28@30c

M. H. HUNT,
Bell Branch, Mich.

BOSTON, MASS., June 9, 1898.—At the present time the demand for both Comb and Extracted Honey is very light, with but little stock on hand. We quote our maket—Fancy White incartons, 13c.; A No. 1 white in glass front cases 11@12c.; No. 1 do, 10@11c.; No. 2 do, 8@9c., Extracted, white, 6@7c.; light amber, 5@6c. Beeswax, pure, in good demand and light supply, at 30c.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE,
57 Chatham Street.

KANSAS CITY, MO., June 15, 1898.—Good demand for honey. Light supply. Price of comb, 8 to 11c. per lb. Extracted, 4 to 5½c. per lb. Good demand for Beeswax, with light supply, at 25c. per lb. Old crop cleaned up and very little on the market.

HAMBLIN & BEARSS,
514 Walnut Street.

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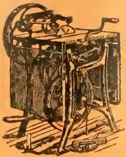

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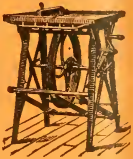

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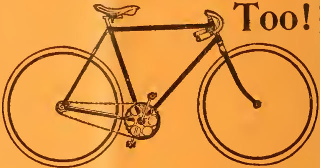

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THE AMERICAN BEE KEEPER.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE INTERESTED IN BEES AND HONEY

MURRAY-HEISS, CLEVELAND, O.

August, 1898.

VOL. VIII. No. 8.

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I would have no difficulty whatever in getting twice 1,000 new subscribers this year if all the bee-keepers in this country had read the Review the past year. I have sometimes thought it *might* pay a publisher to give away his journal one year, simply for the sake of getting it into new hands. There are, of course, decided objections to such a course, but I am going to come as near to it as I dare. Here is my offer:

If you are not a subscriber to the Review, send me $1.00 and I will send you twelve back numbers, the Review the rest of this year, and all of next year.

Each issue of the Review, especially if devoted to the discussion of some special topic, is really a pamphlet containing the best thoughts and experience of the best men upon the topic under discussion. Twelve back numbers of the Review are, to a certain extent, so many little books devoted to as many different phases of bee-keeping. Some issues of the Review are now out of print; of others only a few copies are left; while of others there are several hundred. Of course I shall send those of which I have the greatest number.

Most people subscribe for a journal at the beginning of the year. In this case there is no use of waiting, as you will get the Review for next year just the same as though you waited until next January to subscribe; and you will get the rest of the numbers for this year, *free*. The sooner you subscribe, the more free issues you will receive.

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W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. AUGUST, 1898. No. 8.

How to Introduce a Valuable Queen Safely.

Written for The American Bee-Keeper.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT writes me that he has just lost a very valuable queen in trying to introduce her, one for which he paid $5.00, and he feels so badly over the matter that for the time present, bee-keeping has nearly "lost its charms." He closes his letter with these words: "Is there any really safe plan for the introduction of queens? If so, will you tell us what it is and how to proceed, in The American Bee-Keeper?"

The safe introduction of queens is a subject upon which much has been written and many plans have been devised to accomplish this object, but as the most of them fail to bring about the desired results, it may be well to write a few words on this subject, on which so much has been written that it would seem almost "thread-bare." For the introduction of all queens, except those of special value, I follow the directions which accompany nearly every queen now sent through the mails, which is that of allowing the bees of the queenless colony to eat the food which is stored in the cage, as provisions for its occupants while in transit, by opening a small hole in the end of the cage so the bees of the colony can have access to it. This eating of the food will require two or three days, and during this time the colony is becoming acquainted with their future mother through the wire-cloth which fastens the queen and her attendants in the cage, the wire-cloth side of the cage being so placed that the bees from the colony can have free access to it. Then, when the candy is eaten out, the queen need not go among the bees until she and those which come into the cage get thoroughly acquainted, and, as she goes out at her leisure, there is none of the excitement which generally accompanies any mode of direct introduction. With this plan I do not lose more than one queen in fifty introduced; but as I do not want to take that one-fiftieth chance on a queen which bids fair to be of great value to me, years ago I studied out the following plan, which I have used for over fifteen years, and have never lost one single queen with it. I probably should have been content to have used this nearly perfect plan, as sent out by queen breeders, had it not been, that in some way or other, that when a loss did occur, it was quite apt to fall on a most valuable queen coming from a long distance at a great expense, so that the loss was more keenly felt, as was the case with the correspondent.

From nearly the first year of my bee-keeping life I had known that queens could be let loose on frames of hatching brood with a certainty of success, providing the brood did not get chilled, or some hole was left so the queen could crawl out and die; and this set me to thinking that if a frame could be made that would go in the hive, into which a frame of hatching brood could be slipped, then I would have the thing complete, for the heat from the hive would keep the brood in the right condition for hatching, the same as it did that not caged. Accordingly I got two pieces of wood one-eighth of an inch longer than my frame was deep, by two inches wide and three-sixteenths thick. Onto these pieces I nailed a strip of wire-cloth long enough to go clear around, except the top. This wire cloth was wide enough so that the space between the pieces was one-eighth inch more than the outside width or length of my frame, while a cover was made attachable to the cage, which would closely cover the top, where it could be tightly secured. Into this frame I could slip a frame of hatching brood, let out my queen and the few bees that came with her, secure the cover and then hang the whole in the centre of any colony of bees that was strong enough to keep up the normal heat throughout the whole hive, the cage taking the place of two frames. To make sure that the whole thing should not starve, the frame of hatching brood should have some honey along the top bar as feed for the bees while in the cage, and thus confined, as bees from the colony will seldom feed them.

Having all fixed as above, the cage is left for five or six days, by which time the cage will be well filled with bees, if a right choice was made when securing the frame to place in it. It is never best to select a frame having much larvae in it, for, as there are no nurse bees in the cage, this larvae must die, if a frame having such is used. If you should happen to have a colony in the apiary which has been queenless nine days, and from this colony select a frame from which you see plenty of mature bees biting through the cappings of the cells, you will then have something which will be just as you want it. But with a little care a frame which will answer all purposes can be selected from almost any colony during the months of June, July and August. After five or six days are up the cage is taken to a hive which has been previously placed where we wish our new colony to stand (for a new colony it will soon become), when the cage is to be hung in the hive, and the cover removed. After removing the cover, lift out the frame of bees and brood, upon which you will readily see the queen, for by this time she has grown in size, having the appearance of the laying queen she is, as on inspection eggs will be found in very many of the cells made vacant by the hatching bees, she having become the adopted mother of the little colony. Now set the frame in the hive, together with one of honey, and move up the division board to suit their wants, and the work is done, without the least possible chance of a loss. If you wish to build them up to a full colony in the least possible time, give another frame of hatching brood in a few days, and in a week or so a second, when by the end of the month, you will have as good a colony as any in the apiary.

I have used this plan very many times during the last fifteen years and know that it can be used with success every time, and no failure need occur, even with those having little or no experience in introducing queens.

Borodino, N. Y.

The Bee-Keeper is carefully mailed about the first of each month to every subscriber upon our list. If for any reason you fail to receive it by the 15th, kindly drop a postal card to us and another will be promptly forwarded.

Eleven Months with Bees.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY "OPTIMUS."

I KEEP BEES for the purpose of fertilizing my young orchards. If profit comes my way I will not object. The work affords pleasure.

On the 10th of April, '97, I purchased my first colony of "blacks," a prime swarm cast by a colony wintered on its summer stand. About three weeks afterward I obtained a prime swarm of hybrids. The "blacks" were delivered in a sort of mongrel—observatory—box hive. This combination of ingenuity gave me more trouble than pleasure. To transfer was now the problem. This operation was deferred for four or more weeks till the hive was completely filled with honey. Finally I undertook the formidable task. I tried to get those bees up through the openings at the top. That was a failure. I then tried it through the rear, where the pane of glass afforded the "observation." This was also a failure. I had no neighbor more versed in bee lore than myself from whom to get a pointer. My next alternative was to purchase a bee book—Quinby's New Bee-Keeping—it being the only work in stock on the subject. From this I learned how to transfer—not by the improved Heddon method—Heddon was then an unknown factor to me. I pried off the bottom, turned that hive "up-side-down," drummed up those bees into a box, and dumped its humming contents in front of my dove-tail; thus did I get the little fellows "home" in great shape. I repeated the drumming and dumping act until all had decamped. I then cut out the well filled combs, and after trimming to size, fastened them with strips into Hoffman frames and gave them to the bees in their new abode. Owing to my crude management I got no surplus honey, but they cast two swarms before they had been transferred.

My next tussle was with a colony of high-toned Italians obtained from Mr. Doolittle in Gallup frames. Here, again I was in for the transferring amusement. Mr. D. assured me that it was the easiest thing in the world to transfer them into dovetail hives. This may be, and certainly is, for such a veteran as "The Uncrowned King of the Buffalo Convention," but not so easy for a verdant amateur. At any rate I could not see the feasibility of the performance through Mr. Doolittle's glasses; besides, it was then late in the summer and I feared the experiment might cost me the loss of my $6.00 beauties. So I made a Gallup hive after Mr. Doolittle's very plain and specific directions. But alas, for the accuracy of my workmanship, it was too small. All the frames would not get in. I then "divided," put half in the hive and left the remainder in the shipping box until I made a second and improved hive. I furnished full sheets of fdn. in new frames to complete the full complement of frames to both colonies. Here a new trouble arose. One colony was queenless, hopelessly so; but here again Mr. Doolittle came to the rescue by mailing me an "untested" queen, which I "introduced" after much study and hesitation. She was "accepted" all right, and her offspring are genuine beauties.

I wintered my bees on summer stands in winter cases: fed them granulated syrup, and at present have nine colonies in apparently first-class condition.

Verona, Pa., March 25, 1898.

Market Problem Again.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

MR. EDITOR, will you kindly allow me just a word or two further on that "Problem of Marketing," as per the June number of The American Bee-Keeper. I was wonderfully surprised that Bro. Jolley should take wheat to sustain his position. Can it be possible that he is not familiar with the part that this wheat "racket" plays in lowering the price of honey?

To be very brief, Leiter, according to the papers, bought wheat at 64¾c, which was below the cost of production, and sold the same for $1.85. I have taken extreme outside figures both ways to show the point I wish to make. What was the result? Flour went from less than a dollar to two dollars a sack. So we had the farmer, or producer of wealth, selling his wheat at less than the cost of production, and the consumer of the flour taking of his hard-earned wealth to double the amount that he formerly did to supply his family with bread; all because Leiter desired to put those "unearned charges" down into his pocket. That he made a failure on his part is foreign to the subject. This scheme in which Bro. J. seems only to see something to "prevent the bottom from dropping out" of the wheat market, not only fixed the farmer, but the great mass of wealth-producers also where they could not buy honey, for, by it, supply and demand were robbed of their rightful equilibrium, and what might have gone for friend Jolley's honey went into the trusts' pocket, even though Leiter himself was swallowed in the mealstrom. And this is only a sample of the others, whose name is "legion."

Wonder if Bro. Jolley thought when he was using that shoe illustration of his, that the readers would not remember that, in the earlier years when shoes were made by hand, that there was nothing in "unearned charges" that come between a trade with the honey producers and the shoemakers, while now there stands a leather trust and a shoemakers' combine (which does not produce a particle of wealth), that must have their "pound of flesh" out of both Barber and Jolley every time they look toward a supply and demand transaction. I frankly admit that there are other things in the way of our enjoying the prosperity of the seventies, but cannot see even a shadow in the massing of honey in the "great emporiums" as casting a ray of light (?) on this subject, even after friend Jolley's rejoinder in the June number. If I did not think this one of the most serious menaces which threaten our beloved pursuit, (bee-keeping) I should not take any room with it in a paper which preaches practical bee-keeping. But what will practical bee-keeping amount to when the price of honey (supply and demand) falls so low that we cannot live at our pursuit? All of us do not have a lucrative position inside the "fold" of the Standard Oil Company.

Borodino, N. Y.

[So far from introducing a foreign subject, we regard this discussion as dealing directly with fundamental principles. If it is a fact that our industry is tottering upon a weak, crumbling foundation—an erroneous system—the subject is of vital importance and demands an investigation which will enable us to apply the remedy in such a way as to effect a permanent cure. If the disease is deep-seated and chronic, a mere topical application can give but temporary relief at best, hence we think it advisable to look a little further into the matter, that we may locate the true cause of the limited demand, at low prices, for our product. We will see to it that the practical side receives due attention, by adding space, if necessary, while the discussion is going on, if our readers will freely express their views of this subject. While it is on let us fathom its depths, and by friendly discussion locate the wrong which seems to exist, with a view to permanently bettering future conditions.—Ed.]

Kindness in ourselves is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another.—Landor.

Bee Culture in Japan.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY J. IKEDA.

APICULTURE in Japan is yet in an undeveloped state, though our people have kept bees from time unknown. The species is, perhaps, native. They work diligently and are very gentle, though they have the peculiar trait of gathering only a part of the honey from each flower—leaving a portion of it behind. They never cast a large swarm, and other small swarms are liable to issue soon after the first, and first swarms sometimes cast a swarm the same year. The body is somewhat smaller than that of the Italian, and the abdomen is gray.

The hives are not especially made, and empty barrels, which are hung under the eaves of a house, are often used. These bee-keepers are ignorant of the modern methods of increasing artificially, and think success a matter of luck. There prevails a proverb: "When one's colonies go to increase, one will soon become a millionaire."

Prof. Tamari, of our Imperial university faculty, was a pupil of Prof. Cook, and was very much inspired by the professor's teachings. During his association with the university professor Tamari has written a book on apiculture, which was heartily welcomed by the people of Japan, and has already reached the third edition. I am sending you a copy of the work today. Its introduction has awakened our people from their long sleep, and they are now paying attention to the bee-keeping industry.

We are told by scholars that Japan has progressed wonderfully of late; if it is a fact, it may be attributed to Commander Perry, who opened our closed seaports to the world, and thus introduced Western light. And now Prof. Cook has, through Prof. Tamari, enlightened our apicultural world. We owe much to your people.

Long live America!

Tokyo, Japan, June 27, 1898.

[The book and copy of the "Popular Agriculturist," were duly received and appreciated, though, owing to our ignorance of the Japanese language, in which they are printed, we shall not derive much knowledge of bee-keeping methods in "the land of the Mikado," from this source. The American Bee-Keeper wishes our oriental brethern all the success their progressive spirit deserves; and that is not a little.—Ed.]

Prevention of Increase.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY C. THEILMANN.

THE following way of preventing increase I find to work better than any of the plans recommended which I have tried. It is original with myself, and may be of interest to readers of The American Bee-Keeper.

I allow my bees to swarm naturally, and when a swarm issues I cage the queen and lay the cage at the entrance of the hive from which she came. As the swarm returns and re-enters the hive, this gives me a powerful colony for the production of comb honey. The queen is sometimes left at the entrance for a week or more, and on the seventh day after swarming, I go through the hive and remove all queen cells, being very careful not to leave one, as to miss a cell is to insure a second swarm and defeat the whole purpose of the operation. Usually, by the seventh day, a queen will have hatched, but if not, the cells are all taken off just the same, and some of the ripest of them are laid at the entrance also, for the bees to care for until hatched. The first one to emerge will enter the hive to assume her "reign," and the others will be killed by her as they hatch. This effectually puts an end to second swarming; or, at least, until the best of the harvest is over from white clover and linden.

If I have no place in other colonies

where I can use the best of the old queens to advantage, they are killed, as are also the inferior queens, both old and young, and stock substituted from my best strains. At this time a queen will, as a rule, be readily accepted by the bees if simply run in at the entrance; which is the plan I employ in introducing under such conditions.

This method of preventing increase, not only gives a strong force of workers for the harvest, but introduces young, vigorous queens each season.

Theilmanton, Minn.

The Queen and Her Mating.

An interesting feature of the American Bee Journal is its "question box" department, through which replies by a score of prominent bee-keepers are given to one or more questions propounded by its readers; the query and answers thereto appearing at the same time; an example of which, from its issue of July 7, we give entire.

Some of our readers have kindly written us regarding bee-keeping matters, and at the same time expressed a disinclination to write anything for publication, through fear of criticism by the wiser ones. To such, in particular, we invite a careful perusal, and general comparison of the replies of a quarter of a hundred American authorities, to a simple, every-day problem in practical bee-keeping. And in the future we hope no one will hesitate upon this ground to freely express his opinion. We have all much to learn, and may do it in no other way so well as by a free and fearless expression of our personal ideas:

Query 75.—Under favorable conditions:

1. How many days will elapse after the queen hatches from the cell before she takes her flight?
2. How many days after hatching before she commences laying?
3. Is it true that the mating of the queen and drone always causes the death of the latter?—Utah

Emerson T. Abbott—I do not know.

J. A. Stone—1. From 1 to 5. 2. From 8 to 15. 3. Yes.

J. A. Green—1. 6 or 7 days. 2. 10 days. 3. I do not know.

Dr. C. C. Miller—1. 5 days or more. 2. Something like 10. 3. Probably.

Chas Dadant & Son—1. About 6 days, never short of 5 days. 2. 2 to 4. 3. Yes.

Mrs. J. M. Null—1. 5 to 11 days. 2. 10 to 16 days. 3. Death is a physical necessity.

R. L. Taylor—1. From 4 to 8 days. 2. From 6 to 15. 3. I think so, of necessity.

Dr. J. P. H. Brown—1. Usually in 4 or 5 days. 2. On an average, in 10 days. 3. 'Tis true, I believe.

Prof. A. J. Cook—1. 3 to 6—usually 5, with suitable weather. 2. 3; occasionally 2. 3. Yes.

J. M. Hambaugh—1. From 3 to 7 days. 2. 6 to 10. 3 Yes, according to our best authority.

E. France—1. I don't know. 2. A week to 10 days. 3. I don't know, and don't think anyone knows.

O. O. Poppleton—1. From 6 to 9 days, usually; but there are many exceptions. 2. Add a couple of day to above figures. 3. I don't know, but think yes.

D. W. Heise—1 and 2. That will vary greatly, depending much upon the weather, and other conditions. 3. I give it up; ask them that know.

W. G. Larrabee—1 and 2. I never saw a queen take her flight, but she will commence laying from 3 days to a week after hatching. 3. I don't know.

J. E. Pond—1. Usually 2 or 3 days. 2. 5 or 6 days. 3. Yes, the drone loses the male organ at the time of mating, and death, as a rule, immediately results.

Mrs. L. Harrison—1 and 2. It will depend upon the weather as to the time of flights and the laying of the queen. 3. I don't know. What is the difference, anyhow, whether he lives or dies?

C. H. Dibbern—1. From 12 to 16 days. 2. I am not sure about this, but I think the time varies somewhat. 3.

That is the common understanding, but there may be exceptions.

E. S. Lovesy—1. About 5 days. 2. 8 to 9 days. 3. I would very much like to know. I have many times seen a young queen come out of the hive with the bees, circle in the air, and usually return and enter the hive in about ten minutes. I have seen her settle with the bees as if tired, and I have seen them hived as a swarm, but they always rush out and enter their own hive. But I have never seen anything that would shed any light on this question.

Dr. A. B. Mason— 1. The time varies. I have had them fly in 5 days, and also not for 8 days, under the conditions named. 2. From 2 to 4 days. 3. I don't know, but our leading writers say it does.

Eugene Secor—1. Prof. Cook says 5 to 6 days; Cheshire, 6; Cowan, 3 to 5; Langstroth-Dadant, 6 to 7; Root, 5 to 7; 2. Prof. Cook, 2 to 3 days; Cheshire, 2; Cowan, 2; Langstroth-Dadant, 2; Root, 2. 3. I don't know.

P. H. Elwood—1. Cowan says from 3 to 5; Cheshire says 6 days. 2. Cheshire says 2 days. We believe it takes with us nearly 10 days on the average, from hatching to laying. 3. I do not know that it ever causes death, but suppose it is so.

R. C. Akin—I believe 3 to 4. 2. All favorable, 9; some, 8; some, 10 to 12. 3. I never saw the mating act, but have seen a number of queens evidently very soon after mating, a string trailing after them ¼ to ¾ inch long—supposed to be a part of the drone.

Rev. M. Mahin—1. Usually about 5, if the circumstances are very favorable. 2. Under very favorable circumstances in 7 days, but that is much under the average. 3. I suppose it is. I discovered in my boyhood that the extrusion of the male organs produced instant death.

G. M. Doolittle—1. If the bees allow her to emerge (not hatch; the larvae hatch) from the cell as soon as mature, from 5 to 7, as a rule. If held in the cell by the bees, then from 24 to 72 hours after allowed her liberty. 2. A queen commences laying about two days after successfully meeting the drone. 3. Gently press a "ripe" drone till the sex-organs protrude, and the drone expires at once. See?

G. W. Demaree—1. It depends upon the weather, and to some extent on the time of year. About 18 years ago I spent nearly a whole breeding season to test all these questions, and have observed closely ever since. To put it definiely, she will commence her wedding flights—she makes not less than three—on the evening of the seventh day of her age. 2. She begins to lay in 2 or 3 days. 3. I believe it is.

"It is my practice to leave a few roots in each radish bed to go to seed, and have been surprised at the attraction the flowers are to the bees, also at the quantity of seed set. Another plant they are fond of is the bean, and the more bees visit the blossoms the greater the yield. The flowers of all the cabbage and cauliflower tribe are ever wooed by bees. So also are those of the thyme, pennyroyal and catnip."

E. S. S.

"The American Bee-Keeper is not entirely satisfied with an answer I made to a question in the American Bee Journal, and propounds a supplemental one: 'How can the Union be made of any possible good (not to say the greatest), to its members without an increased membership?' I answer, the membership of the Union is already large, and its resources abundant. Let its officers make a determined and effective campaign, offensive and defensive, against the evils and dangers that threaten bee-keepers and bee-keeping, and doubters will fall in rapidly enough."—Hon. R. L. Taylor, in the Review.

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Falconer, N. Y.

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EDITORIAL.

Twenty-four pages this month.

The honey season in England has thus far been disappointing. Cold east and northwest winds is the cause attributed by the Bee-Keepers' Record.

The editor of Gleanings says some of their colonies are run for both comb and extracted honey at the same time. Every season brings to light new and novel ideas, and in this respect 1898 will ever stand forth conspicuously.

While a few localities appear to have been especially favored this year, there is now evidence of a shortage in the general honey crop of the country. With no California honey to be placed in the eastern markets, as a result of the drouth, indications favor better prices for the light supply that will be offered.

The usual "gap between white clover and basswood" was kept well closed in this locality this season, by a continuation of clover, which was yet in full bloom when basswood was declining. But when milkweed opened the bees had but little time for either, a decided preference being shown for the latter.

Mr. Ed. Jolley wheeled up the valley from Franklin, Pa., recently to honor our "sanctum" with a brief call and discuss intricate phases of modern beedom. To us it was a pleasant hour, indeed, and incites an earnest wish that we might thus meet more of our readers and contributors, with whose names we have become so familiar.

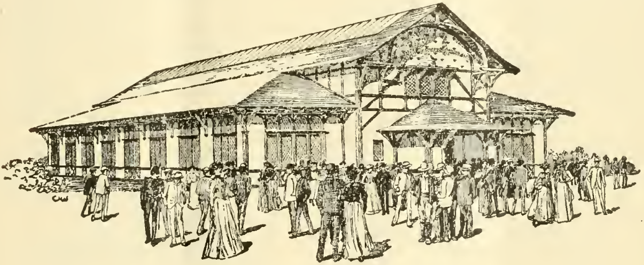
W. A. Varian, in American Bee Journal, has conceived the idea of a committee of bee-keepers being formed from General Merritt's army in the Philippines to test Apis dorsata. He says: "If the great bee, or a closely allied variety, inhabits the region, they can test them there, and if they prove adapted to hiving, introduce them." Has Mr. Varian taken into consideration the awful possibility of their preference in favor of improved hives, which might result in their wresting perforce from Apis mellifica their palatial dovetails throughout America? It might be prudent to test them in the Ladrones before jeopardizing the Philippines.

A metropolitan newspaper is authority for the statement that during his day of peaceful residence in his native land, Senor T. Estrada de Palma, of the Cuban junta, has received in one year from bee-hunters $800 for the privilege of removing the honey and beeswax from his estate in Santiago province. If "Old Glory" is hoisted over much more of that kind of territory, The American Bee-Keeper may decide to confer additional honor upon Gen. Shafter by publishing his picture.

THE OMAHA BEE BUILDING.

The apiarian building at the Trans-Mississippi and International exposition now open at Omaha, Neb., herewith shown, is said to be the largest and most advantageously arranged structure ever erected exclusively for apiarian exhibition purposes.

The architecture is of Swiss design, and when it is stated that the building is seventy-five feet broad by one hundred and forty-eight in length, the reader will better appreciate its extent of exhibition space, than by reference to the illustration, in which the artist has unfortunately lost nearly all perspective.


Apiarian Building, Omaha, Neb.

By an ingenious interior arrangement and the flood of light from its high Dutch windows along either side, and sky-light above, objectionable shadows are avoided, and the numerous attractive displays under the general supervision of Commissioner E. Whitcomb, who is a "tireless toiler" in all work tending to advance bee-keeping interests, appear to the best possible advantage, and cannot fail to afford instructive entertainment to all who attend.

FACING COMB HONEY.

Quite a thorough discussion through some of the bee journals has been occasioned by an article from Aaron Snyder in Gleanings, wherein bee-keepers are accused of dishonesty in crating honey for market. It being averred by Mr. Snyder that inferior grades are to a damaging extent, fraudulently concealed behind a facing of finer goods next to the glass.

In the course of discussions pro and con, Mr. Doolittle expressed the opinion that so long as honey was shipped to be sold on commission, there could be nothing really dishonest in the act of packing a variety of grades in any particular manner that might suit the fancy of the producer, in one crate. Though he distinctly says he doubts the wisdom of such packing, we regret to note an inclination upon the part of certain of his critics to place an entirely unwarranted construction upon what he has written. Who will say that any producer has not a moral right to ship any crate of his product, whether it be good, bad or indifferent, to a commission house handling such goods, to be sold on its merits, and for what it will bring? And who, again, cannot see the fallacy of mixing up several grades in a case, when, by separating them into their respective classes, according to established rules, a better price is obtained?

As a final result of the controversy the American Bee Journal instituted a canvass of the leading commission houses, soliciting an expression of their views upon the subject of "facing," etc. and the published replies in nearly every case accord with Mr. Doolittle's views, that though not necessarily fraudulent, it is an unwise practice, reacting to the detriment of the shipper.

HIVE COVERS.

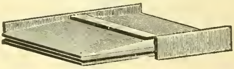
At the Colorado Bee-Keepers' convention R. C Akin truthfully remarked that the wax in sections is sometimes brought almost to the melting point beneath a single board cover. Quoting this from the American Bee Journal, Dr. Miller, in Gleanings, comments: "Every now and then it comes to light that some practical bee-keeper is using a cover with dead air space, covered with tin, and it seems a little strange that manufacturers offer nothing of the kind."

Although there has been much written upon this subject, we believe it may yet be discussed with profit, as there are still styles of covers manufactured and sold, which in theory and pictures appear to embody desirable features, though practically a failure in every way.

The essential points in a hive cover are: It must be a "lawful" roof—one that is in fact a protection from storm—a roof that will shed all the rain, all the time. It should be close-fitting, in direct contact with the hive all around, and yet so constructed that it may be adjusted without force or jar. It should be a non-conductor of heat, and afford a ready means of providing ventilation through the hive when desired. As with all else about the apiary, it should offer no secluded harbor to vermin. When used over sections, it is of importance that an accurate bee-space be maintained, hence the necessity of a rigid and substantial cover, one that will not spring and warp out of shape, inviting propolis at this time, and at other times tempting robbers as well.

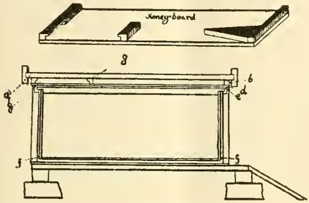
There is one pattern of the ventilated variety of lids constructed of three-eights and three-sixteenths stuff that has had quite an extensive sale. which in our experience has been an intolerable nuisance. Ventilation is a most desirable feature in a hive cover where exposed to the sun, but we cannot afford to sacrifice all other good points to secure this one, as has been done in the case referred to. Such wafer-like boards, with the moisture of the colony below and the heated air above, supported only by inserting the ends into saw-kerfs in the end cleats, and nails driven squarely through the thin boards which constitute the roof, is a source of endless annoyance. What less efficient device could be contrived as a cover? A good lid cannot be made from such fragile material. The only point that we can truthfully note in their favor is that they are necessarily "short-lived," fortunately necessitating an early change.

As to the merits of the ventilated Higginsville cover, brought out a few years ago, we can not speak from experience, though its advantages over the former style are evident. Having, as it does, heavier material as a roof, a more substantial method of cleating and a firm centre support to the thin, lower boards. We have in use, however, quite a number of the ordinary Higginsville covers, in connection with a cleated honey-board, which we assume is similar to the inner cleated cover used by Mr. Akin, and the combination is a very satisfactory covering, second only, in our opinion, to a flat lid and honey-board, of which we have also about one hundred in use.



HIGGINSVILLE VENTILATED COVER

The rude, sectional sketch herewith shown, may serve to illustrate the arrangement which we use and prefer to all other styles yet tried. The lid, a, is a solid board seven-eighths thick, the ends being let into snug-fitting grooves in the end cleats of one and one-eighth inch stuff, two and one-fourth wide, and secured only by a liberal application of white lead and linseed oil, with a single two-inch screw through the centre, into the end of the lid-board. This rests upon the seven-eighths inch honey-board cleats, bb, leaving a free passage, c, for the circulation of air over the honey-board, d, of which some are made of three-eighths and some of half-inch material, by way of experiment, and as the latter are proportionately more firm and substantial, we now prefer them to the thinner ones. The combination makes a solid, convenient, and, to our notion, a perfect cover. The line, e, indicates the bee-space of about one-fourth inch over the top-bars, which have also a like space at the ends, and are guided to their proper position by spacing staples, ff, in the ends of the bottom-bars. The gained block, g, is to hold the inner end of the record slate, with which each honey-board is provided; as they are also with a permanent feeder, shown at the opposite end, which, though seldom used, is always in position and at no time any inconvenience.



This, of course, is a summer arrangement, for, in their present location, it is always summer; but if we were keeping bees again in the northern states or Canada, we should certainly use the same cover, as with our method of wintering, in packing cases, a hive needs no lid, and in fact is better without it.

The extra cost of such a cover is but slight, and its advantages, we think, are many and important.

CUBAN THOUGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS.

Last month we briefly outlined our trip to Cuba with a small lot of bees, concluding the description upon arrival at La Gloria, the apiary site selected a short distance out from the city of Cienfuegos.

La Gloria is one of many Cuban plantations that have been abandoned by their Spanish owners through fear of lawless bands headed by such notorious brigands as Matagas and Espanoca, who have terrorized the island for years, by plying their profession of pillage and plunder, and is located but a few hundred yards from the boyhood home of the latter, where his parents and less distinguished brothers still reside. Being situated upon a beautiful eminence, overlooking a broad valley of waving sugar-cane, to the south, dotted here and there with groups of white plantation buildings, groves of cocoa and royal palms, and the blue peaks of the coast range mountains rising several thousand feet, as a background, with hundreds of square miles of wild land affording an inexhaustible bee range to the north, east and west. and the capacious rooms inclosed by massive walls of masonry, an abundance of shade beneath the spreading branches of giant ceiba trees, rows of almond, orange, lemon, date and other truly beautiful specimens of the palm family, the location was an ideal one in every particular. As incidents of interest are revived in memory through this reflection, we almost regret the restriction which a bee-paper places upon the general character of its contents. No part of Africa could well be more "foreign" in certain respects than is the south coast of Cuba, or than it was at the time of our sojourn there, eleven years ago. Vegetation, climate, language, customs, architecture, and all else so thoroughly foreign, no one but a real bee-keeper whose lot it has been to muse alone, " a stranger in a strange land," could appreciate the companionship afforded by the bees.

When the brilliant hues of sunset had faded from the mountain peaks, and in their stead a craggy outline of the southern horizon was dimly seen through the shades of night, and the doleful sounds of the tom-tom from the slave quarters of a distant plantation came faintly upon a zephyr from the sea, gently rustling the coarse leaves of the towering palms, then it was, after a day of active work in the apiary, we returned again, to hear the one familiar sound—that of an apiary at night. No sweeter music ever fell upon more appreciative ears. There is something akin to magic in the influence of this sound "like rushing waters"—the rapid vibrations of a million wings—and the odor of nectar upon the air, by which a bee-keeper is instantly translated from this ordinary old world of ours, through spontaneous meditation, to another realm. It is the voice of success—the hum of prosperity—which captivates the mind, and he becomes for the time monarch of the municipalities represented. Each of which are associated in the chain of thought, with familiar experiences of the past, present conditions, or future duties. But, at about this juncture a ripe almond falls upon a hive cover, or a huge cocoanut lets go, and comes to earth with a startling thud through the branches of a lower tree, and we are thereby awakened to the fact that while we have been unconsciously planning work for the morrow and more distant future, the hours have been passing. The hideous tom-tom has ceased to "tom," and the silvery moon has mounted high into the heavens and shines down with a brilliancy seen nowhere else as in the tropics. The great white moonflowers entwined through the cactus hedges and other shrubbery may be seen in profusion everywhere, mingled with the smaller bloom of the bellflower, Cuba's greatest honey yielder, the mass of white bloom is in places so dense as to appear like snowbanks in the moonlight.

A Royal Palm.

The late Charles F. Muth, than whom no man was better qualified to speak from personal knowledge of America's honey industry, once declared that Cuba alone was capable of producing honey enough to swamp our country, and that unrestricted importation of honey from that island would deal a blow at the most vital part of bee-culture in the United States. While we have always felt that Mr. Muth may have overestimated the producing capacity of the island, it must be admitted that, as an extensive wholesale dealer and importer of honey, he has had excellent opportunities to observe, and upon which to base his judgement. And such veritable seas of nectar-yielding flora, as noted above, from November until March, extending for unknown miles, shed a rather convincing influence over the beholder.

That Cuba will play a prominent part in future honey production is unquestionable, though its exact character and extent, are interesting problems which may only be conjectured at this time, but to be soon revealed by current developments.

The cargo of the Spanish schooner "Gallite," captured July 5, near Isle of Pines, was said to consist in part of honey and wax. What is interesting The American Bee-Keeper now is to learn where the Gallite "shipped" that part of her burden.

We are sending a number of sample copies this month to bee-keepers who are not subscribers. Please accept it as a personal invitation to become a regular reader. See our special offer to new subscribers. The American Bee-Keeper from now until January, 1900, for only 50 cents.

The article on the prevention of increase by C. Theilmann, in this number, is worthy of a studious perusal. The plan recommended has several advantages, which space will not permit us to enumerate. Mr. Theilmann is one of our western bee-keeping veterans who keeps over two hundred colonies, has made "big money" in the business, and is therefore competent to give solid advice. We are glad to add his name to our list of occasional contributors.

Mr. C. Theilmann, in American Bee Journal, concludes an interesting article with this interrogation: "Did any bee-keeper ever see drone-comb built the first day of swarming with a young, prolific queen; or drone-brood reared the first two or three days after the swarms were hived?" If any bee-keeper has ever seen either of these conditions under the circumstances named by Mr. Theilmann, in less than three weeks after hiving, we would be pleased to have them report their experience in The Bee-Keeper.

Quite a good "yarn" regarding the capture of a ship by a swarm of bees is being related by certain of our exchanges. The story is quite laughable and timely, just now, when everyone is interested in accounts of "captured ships." Our subscribers may read it by turning back to the January number.

From Australian Bee Bulletin: "A good way to clear sections is to place several supers in a bee-proof box with strips of wood between each, and have one or two bee-escapes in the box." A writer in the same journal says: "We have had a plague of swifts, bee martins and other bee-eating birds this summer. In the mouth and throat of one swift that I shot I found fourteen bee stings." He also complains of a spider, as a destroyer of bees. Another says: "We have had no rain to speak of for two years, and everything is completely dried up." A half-column of lamentations from still another writer who has had three years of failure, concludes: "Very happy to say that the drouth has broken up."

In the Ruralist, J. O. Grimsley sounds this note of warning: "Look out for the so-called Cyprian queens. Some dealers are offering them who have not a Cyprian bee in their apiary." This is, of course, a swindle and should be exposed. But, frankly, wouldn't an inexperienced buyer profit by the deception? We think so. Mr. Grimsley has also recently discovered the fact that without the stimulating effect of a honey flow, the golden Italians are "scant and scattering layers." Truer words were never penned, and, according to our experience, a continued dearth of honey will too frequently result in a total loss of the queen's fecundating power, and the "scant and scattering" brood will develop instead of workers, cute little golden drones.

In conversation with an up-to-date man, a bee-keeper who neglects to read the journals devoted to his interests, will invariably "give himself away" in the opening sentence. There is no disguising a "back number."

We are pleased to note a decrease in the number of red wrappers to go out this month. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of our readers in thus relieving us from the necessity of using a great amount of this colored stock. You see, red wrappers "come high."

"In the spring and summer provide the bees with plenty of honey-making food and pure water, and do not keep them near orchards on which insecticides are used. A field of alsike, white or crimson clover, with a flower garden near by, will remove all necessity for the bees seeking the orchards for nectar." It is not clear whether the foregoing, from one of our agricultural exchanges, is an inspired effusion of some visionary amateur, or a case of delirium tremens.

A. J. Wright, Bradford, N. Y., in Gleanings, rises in defense of the mosquito-hawk, or dragon-fly, claiming that in his locality, at least, they are no enemy of the bee, while they work much good in the destruction of noxious insects, upon which they prey. The article is in reply to an item in that journal from a Florida contributor, whose experience has been that the dragon-fly is a great pest in the apiary, with which our own experience accords perfectly, as stated in The Bee-Keeper for March. Mr. Wright's article shows him to be an observing and appreciative student of nature which, being considered in opposition to the statements of the Florida writer, leads to the conclusion that he has had to deal with a very different species from those referred to in the item which called forth his interesting remarks.

The Bee-Keepers' Review concludes a very complimentary editorial notice of our July number by advising its readers to send for a copy. The Review minces nothing, nor hesitates to proclaim its sentiment on any matter of interest to bee-keepers, through fear of incidentally advertising a contemporary. But then, a journal which is in a class by itself can afford to be thus generous; a rather enviable position of independence, which in nowise effects our gratitude. Thank you, Brother Hutchinson; thanks!

"M. Devauchelle having said that laying workers deposit eggs only in drone cells, Dr. Miller replies in l'Apiculteur, that such is the fact when drone cells are present, but in the absence of drone cells they use worker cells, in that case laying one egg in a cell regularly, so that the work cannot be distinguished from that of a fertile queen until the brood is sealed."—American Bee Journal. Is this a case of "difference of climate," or "error in translation?" Of all the cases we have seen, a worker has rarely succeeded in depositing her egg upon the base of a worker cell, as a queen invariably does.

Our venerable and esteemed contemporary, the American Bee Journal, in commenting on the change of editorial management, with reference to The Bee-Keeper, and, evidently, with kind intent, several months ago expressed the wish that we might not find that we had undertaken an "up-Hill" job. Chancing, after a lapse of six months, to again observe this friendly remark, we are moved to say that since that time The Bee-Keeper has had an up-hill road. That is to say, it has been continually on the up-grade. In other words, it has been steadily ascending the hill of success. We have had no "boom"—we do not approve of them—but it has been a source of encouragement to us to note the daily additions that have been made to our subscription list for several months past. And while we are grateful for these tokens of appreciation, as we regard them, we are confident that if our readers were less backward in expressing their personal ideas, and would contribute items of general interest, and suitable subjects for illustrations, more freely, that we could soon give them an improved journal at the present price. We would ask our present subscribers to kindly co-operate with us in this matter. Every item of interest contributed—every word spoken in our behalf, adds to the propelling power "up-hill."

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

To Meet at Omaha.

Toledo, O., July 18, 1898.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

After thoroughly considering the matter of the next place for holding the United States Bee-Keepers' Union convention, the executive committee have decided in favor of Omaha as the place, and probably early in October as the time; but the exact date will doubtless be fixed by those having in charge the securing of reduced railroad rates, and we are going to put the securing of these and hotel rates and place for the convention to meet in, etc.,on Bro. E. Whitcomb's shoulders, for they are broad, and he is right on the ground.

A short time ago he sent me some particulars regarding rates, from which I take the following: "Every day during the exposition, tickets will be on sale from all Western Passenger Association territory to Omaha at one and one-third fare for the round trip, except their rates from the following points, which will be as follows: Chicago, $20; Peoria, $17; St. Louis, $17; Denver, $25. Tickets will be limited to return thirty days from date of sale, not to exceed Nov. 15. From June 1 to October 15 the passenger rates to Omaha from all the principal cities and towns in the United States beyond the Western Passenger Association territory will be 80 per cent. of double the first-class fare." Tickets are good to return until November 15, but I am expecting (?) lower rates, for Bro. Whitcomb told the convention at Buffalo last summer that, if the Union would hold its next meeting at Omaha during the time of holding the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, we should have "as low rates as to any other place on earth." We know that Bro. Whitcomb will do his "level best" for those who attend the convention, and show us "the sights" on the Exposition grounds.

A prominent Western bee-keeper wrote me a few days ago that "the rate, however, cuts a very small figure." Well, may be if we poor bee-keepers were all rich like him, it wouldn't; but this is only another evidence that localities differ.

Further notice of rates, time of meeting, etc., will be given when known.

A. B. MASON, Sec.

West Groton, N. Y., July 18, 1898.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Dear Sir—We will have no white honey this year. So far as I can learn there is none in this part of the state. Prospects for buckwheat are nothing extra, so you can put me down among the "reports discouraging."

Yours truly,
HARRY S. HOWE.

Rutledge, Pa., June 24, 1898.

Mr. Editor—The invitation to visit the apiary of Mr. Homes, at Ashbowner was accepted by thirty persons, most of whom were members of the Bee-Keepers' Association. Mr. Homes has ten colonies of Italians in simplicity hives. He gave several demonstrations of his methods of handling bees, which are original, particularly his plan of tiering up for extracted honey, supering, etc., all of which was appreciated by the spectators. There was a discussion afterwards on the lawn at the Association meeting. Only one member had had any success in getting surplus, and exhibited a sample of comb honey which was pronounced "poplar," and probably gathered from trees in Fairmount Park, which was contiguous to the apiary.

Yours truly,
M. F. REEVE.

Weisenburg, Pa., July 17, 1898.

Mr. H. E. Hill:

Dear Sir:—Last spring I sprayed my fruit trees with Paris green emulsion and since that time my bees have been on the decline. Two of my colonies are in good condition, but the others are very poor; they do not gather enough honey for their own use, and with all my care and feeding they continue to go backward. Their combs were full of moths. I took some of them out and gave them nice clean ones, but they make no use of them, staying all the time upon the old ones. Please give me full particulars and let me know what you recommend as the best for feeding while in this condition.

Respectfully yours,
F. H. Wesley.

[That the use of the spraying mixture has anything to do with the trouble is highly improbable, though for want of a more detailed statement of conditions we cannot answer positively. "The others," which are declining, may mean two or three, or it may include a large number; a point upon which we are not informed and one that would have an important influence upon our conclusions as to the cause, which, from the meagre information at hand, we are very much inclined to attribute to poor queens. Upon this point you may easily satisfy yourself by an examination of their work. If it is caused by poisoned stores, extracting and substituting new will remedy the evil. Spraying fruit trees while in bloom is a most dangerous practice, and one against which several states have stringent laws. It is very seldom, however, that a bee-keeper is found guilty of such imprudence. The best feed for bees at all times is honey. If fed in extracted form it should be slightly diluted with water.—Ed.]

OUR EXTRACTOR

Making Honey Sell at Home.

A great deal of our surplus honey can be sold at home, in the small towns and villages if a trade is built up, but you must first build up your would-be customers' appetites for honey and get them in the habit of using it.

There is hardly anyone who can say he don't like honey after tasting a good article. But the most of them only think they don't like it, because they have had some poor stuff from the store or elsewhere.

Here is my plan for one who keeps a few bees for profit and does not want to ship his honey to the commission man:

It may be a little expensive at first but will pay in the end, as all good advertising does, and how can one get the quality of his honey before the people better than by giving a small sample to those he thinks might be good customers? If you don't feel able to give away a pound as a sample, send and get some smaller sections that will hold, say half a pound, and place as many of them on your hives at the beginning of the honey flow as you think you will need for samples.

When they are filled and nicely capped over, take them off and place a nice label on them with your name and address and any other suitable reading for a small advertisement, then distribute them among those where you think it would be most likely to do good, telling them that it is a small sample of your honey that you would like to have them try, and that you will be around again in three or four days with more for sale. Then let the samples do their work. It is also a good plan to leave one of "Root's Honey Leaflets" with the sample.

In a few days take a small load and call on your would-be customers. You will sell quite a lot the first time, which will help to sell more the next time, and so on, your trade increasing, as all you sell helps to advertise.

But care must be taken not to sell honey that is not well capped over.

I find it also a good plan to leave some at the grocery stores in neat show cases. I have no trouble in selling all the honey I can produce in this way.—A. E. Concord in Southern Merchant and Farmer.

Bees Invade a Candy Factory.

They boil up a ton of raw sugar every morning on the top floor of the four-story brick building, No. 66 Cortlandt street, and the thirty-five girls and men employed by the Murcotte company, who occupy the premises, spend the rest of the day in making over the resultant cream into chocolate and bonbons. Two doors further up the street, also on the top floor, J. H. M. Cook deals in bees, hives and apiary supplies. A feature of his business equipment is a hive of up-to-date pattern, with a colony of bees in full operation, which is maintained to show prospective customers what they may come to possess.

When the saccharine fumes from the boiling sugar began to drift over the beeman's place when the candy factory started up yesterday morning, pedestrians stopped in the street in surprise at the chorus of feminine shrieks and masculine shouts that floated from the open windows of the bonbon works, while a lot of pretty candy makers ran out, and the shirt-sleeved manager of the candy factory dashed up to the beeman's attic at three steps to the jump.

The bees had caught a whiff of the sugar steam, and with a view to next winter's food supply invaded the candy factory in a body. Mr. Cook came over to see what could be done. He found the boiling room in a state of turmoil. There were bees everywhere. Two men who superintended the caldrons were jumping around killing them as fast as they could and using bad broken English at a triple tongue gait, while in the far end of the room a bevy of bonbonnieres who had not yet deserted their posts encouraged their efforts.

"Big Frank" and "Little Frank," which are the only names the men are known by in the shop, had completely lost their tempers, and ever-increasing number of lumps kept cropping out on their faces and necks. Mr. Cook, who is a mild mannered man, remonstrated with them both for their actions and words. "Bees are peaceful creatures," he said. "If you don't molest them they will walk all over you and never hurt you."

The candy man thought it would be a good idea to drive them into the chocolate cold storage room on the third floor and freeze them to death there, and the two Franks intimated that he might try it if he wanted to. He didn't try it, and finally, as the sugar cooled, the bees began to go home, and after an hour or more the hands came back to work.

There was another plague of insects down town yesterday. Myriads of little white-winged bugs appeared in the air around Fulton street, and the adjoining streets in such numbers that late in the afternoon they gave almost the appearance of a fine, flying snow squall. They were about the size of mosquitos, but they never sang nor bit, and when touched they crumpled up into a little white powder.—New York Herald, June 3.

LITERARY NOTES.

Mrs. A. L. Amos, in Progressive Bee-Keeper: "I have had a lesson this spring in the matter of feeding artificial pollen. I had read of it often, but always thought it needless here. The elms and box elders supply pollen as soon as the bees want it. This spring Mr. A. bought a feed mill and has been grinding corn, wheat, oats and barley, and the way they crowd around and load up with the dust is interesting to see. They surely would not gather it if they did not need it."

The new official flag of the President of the United States is printed, for the first time correctly, on the cover of the July Ladies' Home Journal. The flag was recently adopted as the President's emblem, and henceforth will be employed to proclaim his official presence. When he is at the White House the flag will be displayed there, and whereever he may go as President of the United States it will be in evidence. Its publication in accurate color detail will be a matter of much interest, inasmuch as it will acquaint the public with the President's emblem.

"Aux Armes" is the cry at this writing, and little comforts and necessaries are the order of the day for the man on the tented field. One of the best things the soldier has had devised for him is a portable letter case of leather that folds so compactly that it can be slipped into the pocket of the military blouse. Despite its small size and the fact that it takes up practically no room at all, this letter case holds pen, paper, envelopes, a blotter and a tiny bottle of ink. It is one of the few genuinely practical articles for the volunteer or the regular not under the head of "equipment," and, indeed, any man who travels frequently would find it useful.—From "Things Men Want to Know," by Cromwell Childe, in Demorest's Magazine for July.

In the July issue of "Table Talk" the tastes and interests of the housekeeper, the home-maker and the hostess, will find much to assist them. The menus, table decorations and many of the recipes, are fresh and new, while others, given in reply to inquiries received, must meet the needs of more than the inquirers, because so practical. Although the little magazine is of much aid and value to women who desire to keep up with the household interests and improvements of the day, and to get it in a condensed form, some of the articles are: "Behind the Brass Knocker," by Martha Bockee Flint; "Serving a Can of Salmon," by Eleanor M. Lucas; "A Shell Luncheon," by Isabel B. Winslow; "July Days, Manners, Ideas, Fancies," Mary C. Myer; "Housekeepers' Inquiries," by Cornelia C. Bedford, which always are of deepest interest to women interested in their table. Any of our readers desiring a sample copy can obtain one free, by addressing Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. E. A. Starr, editress of the Philadelphia Public Ledger's apiarian department, has kept a colony of bees on the window ledge outside of her room, on the fourth floor of the Ledger office, for the past four years. A covering of newspapers over the frames is the only protection given the colony during the winter seasons. "The bees," says M. F. Reeve, "come and go at their pleasure, and gather a great deal of sweetness from Independence and Washington squares; the former directly across the street, and the latter about a block away." The Quaker City has another lady bee-keeper who keeps eighteen colonies in a third-story window uptown. These are located inside, and the laden workers have for an alighting board, the window sill, while an opening is left at the top for the exit of the out-bound force

W. M. Gerrish, East Nottingham, N. H., keeps a complete supply of our goods, and Eastern customers will save freight by ordering from him.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

New York, July 23.—Our market is in very good shape for the new crop of comb honey. We have had several shipments of White Comb from Florida, of late. This has sold from 10 to 11½c per lb. Market on Southern Extracted honey very steady, there being a good trade for the cheaper grades. We quote our market as follows: Ordinary at 50@53c per gal.; Good, 55@60c per gal. Florida White, 6c. New California is beginning to arrive. Beeswax market is quiet, prices ruling a little lower. We quote pure beeswax at 26½@27½c. Write us for shipping instructions.

Francis H. Leggett & Co.
Franklin and Varick Sts.

Detroit, Mich., July 15, 1898.—Demand slow, with light supply. Best White Comb, 11@12; Extracted, 5@6c. Fair demand for Beeswax, with light supply. Prices, 25@26c. New honey is coming in slowly.

M. H. Hunt,
Bell Branch, Mich.

Boston, Mass., July 23, 1898.—Demand for both Comb and Extracted Honey is very light, with ample supply. Price of Comb, 9@13c.; Extracted, 5@7c. Beeswax, good demand, at 30c. Owing to warm weather, there is practically no demand for honey.

Blake, Scott & Lee,
57 Chatham Street.

Cleveland, O., July 23 1898.—New honey in demand; supply light. Price of Fancy white, 13c; Extracted, 6@6½c. Beeswax, demand good; supply light. Price, 25c.

A. B. Williams & Co.,
80-82 Broadway.

Kansas City, Mo., June 15, 1898.—Good demand for honey. Light supply. Price of comb, 8 to 11c. per lb. Extracted, 4 to 5½c. per lb. Good demand for Beeswax, with light supply, at 25c. per lb. Old crop cleaned up and very little on the market.

Hamblin & Bearss,
514 Walnut Street.

UNTESTED ITALIAN QUEENS,

50 CENTS EACH.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

THEODORE BENDER, Canton, O.

"How to Manage Bees," a 50c. book, and the American Bee-Keeper a year for only 60 cents.

Bishop McCabe, of New York, on Dr. James' Headache Powders.

"With regard to James' Headache Powders, I have no hesitation in commending them to suffers from headache. They relieve the pain speedily, and I have never known anyone to be harmed by their use. The Dr. James Headache Powders have, however, greatly relieved me at times, and I never allow myself to be without them, and have recommended them to others freely. "C. C. McCABE."

For sale by H. W. Davis, Falconer, N. Y.

We want 10,000 Bee-keepers

on our subscription list before the close of the century.

WE MAY NOT GET THEM,

but as an inducement to that end we propose the following: We will send The American Bee-Keeper from now until January, 1900, for 50 cents.

If you are interested in bee-keeping, you can hardly afford to neglect this opportunity. Substantial additions have been made to our list every month this year; but it will be necessary to increase the rate at which they are now coming, to give us the 10,000 new ones in the specified time. We shall, therefore, constantly endeavor to improve the paper and hope by this generous offer to add several hundred this month. You are invited to join us. Address

THE
AMERICAN
BEE-KEEPER,
Falconer, N. Y.

Florida East Coast Railway Lands,

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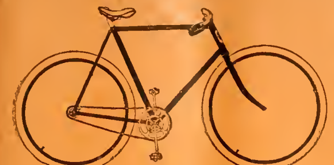

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Last year only about 1 per cent.—only one subscriber in 100—ordered his Review discontinued. If the Review could secure 1,000 new subscribers the present year, there is almost absolute certainty that at least 900 of them would remain, not only next year, but for several years—as long as they are interested in bees. Once a really *good* journal visits a bee-keeper a whole year, it usually becomes a permanent member of his family.

I would have no difficulty whatever in getting twice 1,000 new subscribers this year if all the bee-keepers in this country had read the Review the past year. I have sometimes thought it *might* pay a publisher to give away his journal one year, simply for the sake of getting it into new hands. There are, of course, decided objections to such a course, but I am going to come as near to it as I dare. Here is my offer:

If you are not a subscriber to the Review send me $1.00 and I will send you twelve back numbers, the Review the rest of this year, and all of next year.

Each issue of the Review, especially if devoted to the discussion of some special topic, is really a pamphlet containing the best thoughts and experience of the best men upon the topic under discussion. Twelve back numbers of the Review are, to a certain extent, so many little books devoted to as many different phases of bee-keeping. Some issues of the Review are now out of print; of others only a few copies are left; while of others there are several hundred. Of course I shall send those of which I have the greatest number.

Most people subscribe for a journal at the beginning of the year. In this case there is no use of waiting, as you will get the Review for next year just the same as though you waited until next January to subscribe; and you will get the rest of the numbers for this year, *free*. The sooner you subscribe, the more free issues you will receive.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. SEPTEMBER, 1898. No. 9.

Cutting Queen-Cells to Prevent Swarming.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

PICKING up a paper lately I saw these words from quite a prominent writer on apiculture: "Cutting queen-cells cannot always be relied on to prevent swarming, but the practice has a tendency to delay it, and in some cases entirely prevent it."

I wish to say a few words in this matter of cutting queen-cells. I will take the above as a sort of text and widen out a little so that the reader can see something regarding what Doolittle does believe in along the line of cutting cells. Undoubtedly the words quoted were said in alluding to the stopping of prime swarms, by the cutting-of-cells plan, so often given and tried by those who have not had years of experience in practical apiculture. Such being the case, I think the writer quite correct in his statement, and would add to it, that I believe much honey is lost in trying to hinder prime swarms through the cutting of cells, which might have been secured had the bees been allowed to swarm when they were ready to do so, instead of throwing them out of a normal condition by cutting cells, and then having them swarm at last under conditions not as favorable for a crop of surplus honey as would have been had they been let alone. By the cutting of cells and any manipulation which is not sure and permanent, the swarming fever is generally at its height right in the heaviest flow of honey, and when thus, very little surplus will be obtained, while if the bees were allowed their way, and after-swarms prevented, the whole apiary would settle down to business just when the flow of honey was at its best, and thus a fine crop of honey is secured. But it is barely possible that the writer alluded to after-swarms when he said that "cutting of queen-cells cannot always be relied on to prevent swarming," for I am well aware that the way queen-cells are generally cut, has not only a "tendency to delay" after-swarms, but it has also a tendency to increase the number which issue.

Nature gives many more in number of after-swarms than of all other swarms put together, and as these swarms are not desired by many, any plan which will entirely prevent them, will bear repeating often, and this brings me up to what I wished more especially to say: The usual plan for cutting queen-cells to prevent after-swarming, is to wait six days after the first prime swarm issues, when the hive is to be opened and all of the queen-cells excepting one, cut off, when it is claimed no more swarms will issue. After trying this plan for several years I found it worked just exactly as a bee-keeper told me a short time ago it worked with him. He said he had usually hived these after-swarms in boxes about the parent colony till the old colony stopped swarming, when he dumped all together in the old hive, letting the young queens fight it out, when they would go on and work well; and if a suitable time in the honey harvest when this was done, such a colony would do good business, giving a surplus of honey. While he was thus doing, another bee-keeper came along and told him that, if he would cut all the queen-cells but one, on the sixth day, he would have no more trouble hiving after-swarms in boxes about the parent colony. Offering to show him how, they opened a hive which had swarmed six days before, and bee-keeper No. 2 cut all the cells but one. At the usual time no swarm issued and bee-keeper No. 1 thought he had learned something of value; but when the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth days arrived after the issue of the prime swarm, he found he had more swarms from hives thus treated than from those not touched at all. He said that the bees built queen-cells over the larvae still left in the hive, that was of an age at which it could be converted into a queen; destroyed the cell or queen after she had hatched, which was left in cuttting cells; and as the bees had become strong in numbers before the queens matured from the newly built cells, the bees would swarm until the old hive was so depopulated that it would not build up for winter unless helped by the apiarist.

I have given the readers of The American Bee-Keeper what this bee-keeper told me, as it so nearly described what I have found to be a fact when using the plan, that words of mine could add nothing to it. I have often wondered how long it would take to teach the apiarists of the United States that such cutting of cells was a fallacy. and worse than a failure. But there is a way of cutting queen-cells so as to entirely prevent after-swarms, which has stood the test of years with me. I will tell the readers so they can enjoy it with me. Wait eight days after the first or prime swarm issues from any hive, then cut all the queen cells giving a ripe one from your best colony, and you have a sure thing of it, as, in this case, all of the larvae have passed the age of being converted into queens. But the way I prefer, and the one I practice is this: On the evening of the eighth day, just before going to bed, (the maximum outside noise being hushed in the outside world at this time), I listen a moment with my ear at the side of the hive which cast a prime swarm that long ago, and if the young queen has hatched, and the bees have concluded to send out an after-swarm, I hear the piping of the young queen, which always precedes the issue of an after-swarm. If I hear this piping, I open the hive early the next morning and cut off every queen cell, shaking off the bees from each frame in front of the entrance, so that no cells can by any possibility be missed. There is now no guess work or hope-so about it, but a sure thing, as one queen has her liberty and you take away all the rest. In all ways where a sealed queen cell is left, there is a possibility that this cell may not hatch, in which case the colony will be queenless; but by this plan we know that there is a young queen present, for we heard her say so the night previous, if no piping is heard when we listen, then listen the next night, and so on to the night of the sixteenth day; and if no piping is heard then, we may know that the bees have concluded not to send out any after-swarm.

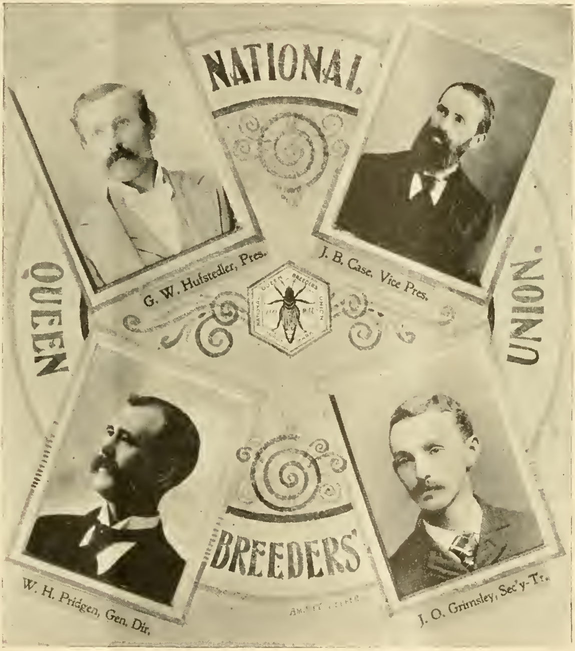
Borodino, N. Y.

National Queen-Breeders' Union.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY J. B. CASE.

FEW bee-keepers, perhaps, realize the proportions to which the business of rearing queen bees for sale has grown. Many thousands are annually sold. They are good, fair or indifferent, depending upon the conditions under which they are reared. If all the conditions are most favorable good queens result; otherwise, poorer ones.


NATIONAL
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BREEDERS
G. W. Hufstedler, Pres.
J. B. Case, Vice Pres.
W. H. Pridgen, Gen. Dir.
J. O. Grimsley, Sec'y-Tr.

Some are queen breeders because they love bees, take delight in fine stock, in rearing, improving and in sharing it with others. Some rear queens as a business and others as a side issue for a few weeks. Some are ambitious to rear queens of the highest type possible; others bend their energies to rearing large numbers to meet the demand for cheap queens.

In a "queen trade" the buyer is dependent on the "honor" of the breeder as to the kind of stock, method of rearing and value of queens. The breeder is dependent on the purchaser's "honor" as to arrival of queen and after reports. The dealer has to depend on the honor of both breeder and purchaser.

To give mutual confidence, to save losses and to improve the quality of the queens reared, Mr. J. O. Grimsley originated the idea of a National Queen Breeders' Union. Its object is to protect both queen breeders and queen buyers, and the Union guarantees that no complaint of dishonesty or misrepresentation is against any member. As soon as complaint is received it will at once be investigated, and if the member is guilty he will be expelled. Applicants for membership have their names forwarded to each member for investigation before they are received into the Union by ballot.

There are (or have been in the past) breeders and dealers who have ordered queens, promising to pay, but not doing so. After getting as many as possible from one breeder, another would be "worked," and so on. The constitution provides that each member shall report all such cases to the secretary, (who also invites all others, having knowledge of such cases, to do likewise), who shall notify the members that such persons do not pay.

It is intended that the queen buyer shall have the utmost confidence in the members of the Union. As each member knows that he would be expelled for any crookedness, it is not reasonable to suppose that a member would invite the ruin of his queen trade by dishonorable methods, even if he were not honest by nature. The Union has a "trade mark." Each member has the right to use same as a guarantee.

All queen breeders whose reputations are spotless are eligible to membership. While members may reject an applicant, no one but the members know who have applied for membership. While the Union does not intend to reflect on outsiders, it believes that it will be to the interest of all to join and help to extend the usefulness of the Union, as, by organization, it is possible to accomplish much more than the members can by individual effort. So come on, brethren, and help us.

As the organization was effected by correspondence, it was thought best to adopt the constitution as drafted and make the minor changes afterward. In some points it will probably be changed soon.

I omitted above to say that the Union is in no sense a trust, as each member regulates his prices to suit himself.

One of the objects of the Union is to improve the honey bee. An association whose interests as a whole (as well as individually) are to increase the queen trade is the one from whom we would naturally expect the most improvement in the honey bee. By inter-change of ideas and working in accord along the same line, much more should be accomplished than by each working independently.

Port Orange, Fla.

Care in Winter and Spring.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY FRED S. THORINGTON.

IT is my habit when I can do so to provide my bees with plenty of stores (sealed honey preferred) when they are placed in winter quarters in the fall. I aim to give them enough food to last them until they can gather honey from the blossoms in the spring. But as some colonies may fall a prey to robbers and be robbed of some of their stores, and as some use more honey than others, I keep watch of them during the winter and early spring and give them food at any time they may need it. I determine this by the appearance of the bees when out flying, and by gently lifting the hive at the back end, so it is free from the stand, letting the hive rest on the fingers of one hand while the front rests on the front end of stand. By lifting the hive in this manner one gets nearly all the weight, or enough to determine when the colony is running short of stores.

As there is but a small amount of brood in the hives during the winter months, a good portion of the weight, aside from that of hive, frames and comb, will be honey. If one knows the weight of an empty hive he will soon learn the rest by a little practice, and some hives need not be lifted more than once or twice during the winter. It disturbs the bees but little if it is done with care, letting the hive down gently so as not to jar the bees. As bees winter better when kept quiet, I disturb them as little as possible. I examine my bees, mostly in March, as above stated, choosing some warm day when they are flying. This year it was March 5, and up till that time not a cap had been removed from hives after they had been placed in winter quarters. Yet my colonies, forty-two in number, were found all right, with no loss. One colony was about out of honey; I gave it frames of honey kept over winter for that purpose. I set them next to the brood, after taking out the empty frames. Two other colonies were fed a little in case they might be short of stores if the spring should be late or weather so the bees could not work on early bloom. I had rather my bees would have ten pounds more honey than needed for winter than have an ounce too little. If they have plenty of honey to last till it comes in the spring, the bees are stronger in numbers, as they breed up faster, and are more ready to take advantage of the first flow that comes.

Should bees have to be fed sugar in the spring it is best fed in syrup form, as it is a more natural food and stimulates the queen to egg-laying. When bees are fed they should be tucked up warm again before the cap or cover is put on.

Colonies will hardly ever be found to be without a queen in the spring. If they are bringing in natural pollen, and are active about the entrance, it will be found they have a thrifty queen.

Strong colonies raise brood very rapidly in the spring and consume a larger amount of honey, and should be closely watched that they have enough to last until they can gather it from fruit blossoms.

Chillicothe, Mo.

Where It Pays to Take Time.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY HARRY S. HOWE.

I HAVE been crying out for faster ways of working for so long that perhaps it will be a good plan to try it the other way for once.

Take time to see that the smoker is in good working order before opening a hive. It pays in wear and tear on the temper.

Take time to look over the yard when through working for the day, and see that no fire has been dropped upon the cushions. I have known of several cases of hives being burned, one thirty-six hours after it was worked.

Take time to let your dinner settle. I can do more work in a day with a nooning than without it.

Take time to read the bee journals, advertising and all; and don't think one paper has it all in. I read four and then miss lots of good things.

Take time to go to your bee convention, even if you have to hire a man to work in your place while you are gone. I got an idea at the last Cortland County convention that has been worth all I ever paid for conventions, so far this season. Even if there are no new ideas, it is worth the price to get the "bee fever" up to a higher temperature.

Take the time to visit your neighbor bee-keeper. He may have just what you want. At least, you will learn how not to do it, and that is worth something. I once visited a yard where two men had been a day or two taking extracted honey at the rate of 400 pounds a day. It was worth a day's work to see those men lay a comb flat down on a board, and then take a hot knife and cut of pieces of capping almost as big as a silver dollar!

Take time to keep a record of what you do and when you do it. I thought this year that the first extracting was way ahead of time, until I looked it up and found that it was only the average.

Go slow and take a few years to consider before you change the style of your hives. I am working yards having six entirely different hives and can't see much difference in the results. Of course, only one kind is allowed in a yard. It is confusion worse confounded to have two styles of hives in one yard.

Take all the time that may be necessary to explain how flowers are fertilized and the part bees play in it. This is one of the subjects upon which people should be educated. I changed a man from a skeptic to a firm believer, today, by showing him the structure of a few flowers and the use of the parts.

West Groton, N. Y.

The Bee a Napoleonic Emblem.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY M. F. REEVE.

THE eagle and the bee figure prominently among the decorative emblems of the Napoleonic period. Golden bees decorated the imperial mantle and the throne. Count Regnault, in a discussion with the great emperor upon the question of a coat of arms, inquired: "Would you have the mantle embroidered with eagles?"

"No," replied Napoleon, "that would have a bad effect. I would have gold stars, or rather gold bees. The latter would be a national emblem, for bees were found in the tomb of Chilperic. That insect is the symbol of industry. The stars will be for me, and the bees for the people. These and the gold eagle, with the thunderbolt in his claws, on a field of azure, picturing the heavens to which he is soaring. These are more than sufficient. Our national colors will all refer to me, and to our descendants. I shall be the founder of all things."

The third emperor preserved the bee as one of the national emblems, and it figures in the ornamentation of his period.

Rutledge, Pa.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Bee-keepers' Sad Plight.

A failure of the honey crop is not the worst calamity that can befall a bee-keeper, as some, in bewailing their ill luck, seem to think. As an example of discouragements, dire and depressing, through which some of the bee-keepers have been compelled to pass this season, may be mentioned Mr. Thomas McDonald, of Shawneetown, Ills., who, in the devastating floods last April, lost his home, his cattle and entire apiary of 200 colonies. The fact that Mr. McDonald is poor and a helpless cripple renders his loss doubly severe, and a movement has been set on foot by benevolent friends inviting contributions to his aid, which may be sent direct to the address given.

Even more sad is the affliction of Mr. J. P. Lees, of Stuart, Fla., a bee-keeper who has but recently settled there, with naught but a large family of small children and a determination to carve out a home in the wilds of Dade county, with but one hand, having lost the fingers of his left by accidental contact with a saw. In addition to the loss of a honey crop as a result of forest fires in his locality this year, the following pathetic note tells of greater trouble:

Stuart, Fla., Aug. 4, 1898.

Friend Hill:—Our home, which is no more, was the scene of a sad event on July 31st: My 10-year-old boy was burned to death; my house, with all its contents, was destroyed by fire. My wife, myself and one small child barely escaped with our lives, and as a result of my burns and exhaustion I am now in bed. We had not time to save a thing but ourselves from the flames. The neighbors have kindly given us some things in the way of bedding, lishes and provisions. But I must close, as I cannot write more at present.

Yours,

J. P. LEES.

Marengo, Ill., Aug. 11, 1898.

Friend Hill:—

I note what you say in American Bee-Keeper, page 142, about laying workers depositing eggs like queens. I don't know about other "climates," but I assure you the translation is all right for this climate. When no drone comb was present I've seen a few cases in which the eggs of laying workers were laid all right in the bottom of worker cells. In one case I saw a worker in the act of laying. She looked very uncomfortable, with her wings pushed up about her neck, and I suspect the reason laying workers lay so many eggs in one cell, queen or drone, rather than to occupy worker cells, is because it's more comfortable. When compelled to use worker cells they are found more plenty, and there is not the same temptation to lay a second egg in one.

You say "a worker has rarely succeeded in depositing her egg upon the base of a worker cell, as a queen invariably does." Will you pardon me if I say that "invariably" should be stricken out? I have seen more than one exception to the rule. Among other cases, I had an imported queen which for a short time laid all her eggs on the side of the cell, and then for the rest of her life deported herself as a well behaved queen should.

Fraternally yours,

C. C. MILLER.

[The conditions noted by Dr. Miller in the foregoing are as new to us as the observations are interesting. While we have repeatedly noted the preference of laying workers for drone comb, the irregularity characteristic of their work has been no less marked in worker cells than in others. We should, perhaps, have qualified our assertion as to the invariable habit of a queen by the introduction of an adjective. We meant, of course, a normal queen.—Ed.]

Report of a Migratory Specialist.

The following extract from a letter from Mr. O. O. Poppleton, dated at St. Lucie, Fla., July 30, 1898, will be of interest to our readers:

"The pennyroyal crop was less than usual this year. I took out eight barrels from my 100 colonies of that, mixed with old black and other from various sources. Saw palmetto also was poor, partly on account of so many fires. Took ten barrels (400 pounds each) while at Stuart and brought eighty colonies to this place early in June. Took twelve barrels so much mixed with palmetto that it will all pass for that and eight barrels of mangrove. My entire crop, including nearly 1,000 pounds of very dark honey taken in January, has been about 6,000 pounds from 100 colonies at Stuart and 7,500 from the eighty colonies here, or an average all around of 135 pounds. The flow has been continuous since the middle of April, but very light; hive on scales (a good one) showing five pounds gain on only two or three days."

McMichaels, Pa., June 23, 1898.

The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.:

Gentlemen:—The section boxes came to hand today. They are beauties.

Yours truly,

ELWOOD BOND.

With a cessation of the honey flow the troublesome robbers make their appearance, and necessary precautions should be taken to guard against loss through their persistent efforts to overpower weaker colonies.

"We may stand on the highest hill if we are only willing to take steps enough."

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
THE W. T. FALCONER MANFG CO.

H. E. HILL, - - - Editor.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER,
Falconer, N. Y.

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EDITORIAL.

The honey market is "looking up."

A general exchange of ideas on preparation for winter would be seasonable and profitable at this time. Shall we have it?

Acording to recent reports of several bee-keepers in Gleanings, the plain section and fence arrangement has given highly satisfactory results this season.

Editor Root, of Gleanings, says it is his impression that "the majority of progressive bee-keepers use hybrids, because they secure as much honey as Italians, and more than blacks." That the hybrid is the most common bee in use today is doubtless true; but will the "cause" stated justify the inferred preference? In a general sense, such may be the fact, but from personal experience, we think not.

An idea that honey stored by Italian bees is superior to that gathered from the same source by the "blacks," is now a wandering outcast of unknown parentage. It's a delicate thing and probably doomed to die young.

Everything at present betokens a large and successful meeting at Omaha on the 13th, 14th and 15th of this month. Secretary Mason says, "the program is a good one," and Secretary Mason is a competent judge of such matters.

J. H. Martin, in Gleanings, seeks to alleviate the discomfort of adhering wax and honey to his shoes by the use of a rubber sole. We can beat that remedy by "long odds." Keep wax and honey off the floor. In some honey houses of California, the birthplace of Mr. Martin's idea, one would require frequent changes of rubber suits.

In a very interesting paper on the early history of the honey bee, read before the Ontario County (N. Y.) Bee-Keepers' convention, reported in Gleanings, it is stated that, "in the Koran Mohammed devotes a whole chapter to bees and bee-keeping." This must be a "chapter" that has not yet been translated into English.

The Canadian Bee Journal for August has a very sensible editorial under the heading, "Courage in Journalism." That criticisms of an adverse character should be rendered as openly and with the same degree of frankness as the more pleasant task of commending another, and that this is not done in the journalism of today as in days past, is the trend of Editor Holtermann's muse. He very truly concludes: "The man who withdraws his support the moment his wishes are crossed does not encourage independence." Verily, criticism, honest, unbiased criticism, is the life of journalism. Without it there can be no progression.

It has now been definitely decided to hold the United States Bee-Keepers' Union convention at the Delone hotel, corner Fourteenth street and Capitol avenue, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 13, 14 and 15. Mr. E. Whitcomb, who has in charge the apiarian branch of the great Trans-Mississippi Exposition has made all necessary arrangements for the entertainment and comfort of members in attendance, at reduced rates. For those who find it convenient to be present, we bespeak a most enjoyable time.

A correspondent from the south writes that moths are bad this year, and reports the loss of several colonies as a result of their attacks. It would be strange, indeed, if this should be a year in which moths were not bad in the south, for they are there constantly on the alert for neglected combs; but the moth fares poorly in a well-kept apiary in any country. Our own neglect has been directly responsible for every comb that we have lost by moths. They are bred by negligence and upon the fruits of carelessness thrive and grow fat.

The officers of the new organization for the development and protection of the queen-rearing industry of the United States, as shown on another page, all hail from Dixie's land Mr. Hufstedler lives in Texas, Mr. Case has his apiaries in Florida, Mr. Pridgen's home is in North Carolina, while Mr. Grimsley is located in Tennessee. Any movement tending to improve our stock and to encourage and protect honorable business methods, is worthy of commendation, and, so long as the provisions of the constitution are adhered to, good work may reasonably be expected to result from this united effort of competent breeders. We trust the National Queen Breeders' Union may realize a successful and complete fulfillment of its mission.

A correspondent in American Bee Journal speaks of a queen "hatching" from the cell. By way of correction Mr. Doolittle says: "Emerge, not hatch; the larvae hatch." The suggestion is a good one, though its importance is generally disregarded by writers of the day; and if the aforesaid correspondent should feel disposed to defend his expression as correct, there would be no lack of authorities who might be cited to justify its use. He might quote the author of "Scientific Queen-Rearing" with some effect.

Of Mr. Thomas W. Cowan, who, in company with Mrs. Cowan, has been visiting America this year, Editor Root, of Gleanings, says he is the most talented and best informed bee-keeper living today; that he has traveled over nearly the whole civilized world; reads eleven different languages; has had honors innumerable conferred upon him by diffenent societies for the aid he has given in the advancement of science; is editor of the British Bee Journal; is president of the British Bee-Keepers' Association; has the most extensive library relating to bees of any man in the world; is familiar with the writings and teachings of the bee-masters, in whatever language, from the ancients down; yet he is modest, unassuming and of quiet manner. Is this not a distinguishing characteristic of all truly great men? Intellectual development begets charity, of which modesty is the offspring.

WHITE, OR DARK SECTIONS?

Some very sensible suggestions have been offered through our exchanges of late regarding the inexplicable preference of bee-keepers in general for a snow-white section, when, it is a fact unquestioned, that the whiteness of the comb is displayed to better advantage in "cream" sections. A very radical departure from established customs is not liable to meet with general approval upon first thought, and especially when the design is to displace a commodity against which no complaint is made.

The "snow-white" section is too well established to ever be entirely abandoned, nor is it desirable that it should be, yet we think the attractiveness of our product might be enhanced by some variations in color as well as in design of sections. We once saw a small display of honey in black-walnut sections, and the effect was very pleasing. Glass sections, though not adapted to general use, have been exhibited with pretty effect in public displays to some extent.

Sections of the four-piece variety made of chestnut would be a decided novelty on the market, and novelties take the public eye.

MILKWEED HONEY.

There are few plants in the north of which the bees are more fond during their season of bloom than the milkweed. From a limited experience with this plant we had formed an opinion that the honey yielded was of a dark, rather reddish color, good body and, to our taste, not unpleasant, though pronounced flavor.

Much has been written in times past concerning the plant, especially in regard to the peculiarity of its pollen masses, which are so constructed as to attach themselves to the feet of the workers, forming an accumulation from which the bee is unable to extricate herself, and by which she is so encumbered that it is impossible to ascend the combs or hive-walls with her load of nectar, and is in consequence ejected from the hive. But no one to our knowledge has told us anything of the quality of milkweed honey; hence there has been nothing to disturb the opinion as stated above, which was established as a result of having harvested something over a ton of honey, supposed to be gathered from this source, until recently, when we called upon Mr. John F. Eggleston, of Vroman, Pa., who keeps about 125 colonies and has, he says, lots of milkweed within his range. Mr. Eggleston quite positively opposed our idea as to the quality of the honey, claiming that it so nearly resembles white clover that the two may only be distinguished by the sulphur-colored cappings always in evidence when bees are at work on milkweed, and in support of his position invited us to the honey-house, where a number of completed supers were examined and the lemon-tint pointed out, while the honey was as light as any clover we had ever seen, if, indeed, it was not genuine clover honey.

Milkweed.—(*Asclepias.*)

Mr. Eggleston's argument was pretty strong, though not altogether convincing. We are less confident of our opinion, however, and earnestly in quest of knowledge.

The honey value of the milkweed and the quality of the honey yielded, is a problem now open.

THE "CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL."

There is no enterprise, public or private, in the Dominion of Canada, in which "our cousins over the border" ake a deeper interest or more general pride than their great annual fairs, of which, from an American standpoint, he Canadian Industrial Exposition has or many years been the most popular. n addition to the long list of interestng features at Toronto this year, a special exhibit of working bees has been arranged, with important lectures on bees and bee-keeping, daily. The Exposition is now in full blast and will continue until Sept. 10.

THE UNION'S "LARGE" FUND.

President George W. York, of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, in his publication, the American Bee Journal, very pointedly opposes Mr. Taylor's reply to our question, as printed on page 135 of the Bee-Keeper for August, dwelling at length upon the importance of a greatly increased membership in order to combat successfully the offenders' millions. The total inadequacy of the present fund, which he says is less than $500, is made to appear very clearly. It would seem that this great country, leading the world, as it does in honey production, should support one bee-keepers' organization becoming the magnitude of the industry.

TALKING WILD.

W. A. H. Gilstrap, in Gleanings, indulges in a wild and incoherent discussion of the many pests with which he finds that state infested, in which he includes the possible invasion of Apis dorsata, and expresses himself as "tickled" by the probable escape of this pest. We take it for granted that Mr. Gilstrap knows all about "Johnson grass" and "jack rabbits," but how he comes to be so wise on the Apis dorsata question we do not know. Such rantings are premature and reflect nothing to the credit of the author's judgment. There were probably Gilstraps when our forefathers contemplated the importation of Apis mellifica, as there has been opposition to every other progressive movement, for which the world has now to be thankful.

FINDING QUEENS.

The following editorial by Mr. Doolittle, appeared in the Progressive Bee-Keeper for August:

"I see by the American Bee-Keeper that Editor Hill prefers trying to find a queen in populous colony than in one less populous. Well, I don't agree, but perhaps Bro. Hill has some way of finding queens the rest of us mortals don't know about. If so he can find a real joy in telling the world just how it is done. While we are waiting, I will say that from an experience of nearly thirty years, I am led to believe that the queen is near the centre of the brood nest at midnight, and works toward one side of said nest from then till about noon, when she returns on her trip of egg laying, arriving at the centre again at midnight, from where she passes in an opposite direction toward the outside, where she arrives about noon. Having this thing in mind, when I am trying to find a queen in a populous colony, which has not had its brood nest disturbed for some time, I go to it somewhere from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m., using as little smoke as possible and not jarring the hive in opening so as to stampede the bees and queen, when, by carefully noting about where the outside comb of brood is, I lift it from the hive. If she is not on this comb, and it proves to be the outside comb of brood, I next lift the outside comb of brood on the opposite side of the hive, and in as many as four cases out of five, I will find her on one of those two combs; while if I do the same thing early in the morning or late at night, I do not find her on either of these combs one time in five, but must look nearer the centre for her. If you wish to see a queen quickly on any comb, don't hold it close to you and look right square on it, but hold it off at arm's length and so that the vision will strike it obliquely. Why? Because if you hold it close up, the vision will only take in a little part of the comb, and you will be loking directly on the back of the queen, in which position the wings will cover the larger part of her abdomen, when she more nearly resembles a worker bee than in any other. By holding the comb off at arm's length, the vision takes in nearly the whole surface of the comb at one glance, and by holding it obliquely the long, tapering abdomen of the queen is easily distinguished from the shorter abdomens of the workers, for it is the abdomen of the queen which more readily tells of her presence than anything else. Even in this worst of all seasons, I have found queens at the rate of ten an hour in the most populous colonies at the out apiary, taking off and putting back the surplus apartment at that, while I often treble this speed with my queen rearing colonies."

Well, we are glad you "don't agree," else we should not have had these notes, founded upon long and varied experience, for future reference. The only reason which we have to offer for the preference expressed, is because we have generally been more successful in readily locating the queen in strong colonies than in weak ones. This is particularly true of our experience with black bees.

HONEY WITHOUT SEPARATORS.

Dr. Miller, in Gleanings, says: "R. C. Reed, thirty miles north of Medina, who has now 150 colonies, has been using tall, narrow sections (5⅛x4½x1½) for thirteen years without separators, and he thinks he has not more than 100 bulged sections in a ton. W. B. Ransom, the man who uses no separators and depends on level hives, had twenty-one bulgers in 1,000, but sever of these were baits. Is it possible, i we knew how, we could discard bot fence and separator?" To this Edito Root appends: "Yes, I think it barel possible that the expert bee-keepe might do so, but the beginner and careless, never." Then comes J. H. Marti in a later issue with this offering: "Noting what you have to say abou producing comb honey without separators leads me to remember seeing a fine lot of comb honey in Riverside Cal., that was produced without separators, and there were but a few of th sections that would not pack nicely i the case. Of course, the few bulge sections were just what were wante for home use. This honey was produced by Mr. George K. Hubbard an in the Hubbard hive. He says he ha no use for separators."

Now we beg permission to add t this medley our own "experience:" W had no idea that the majority of beekeepers did use separators. We have had more or less to do with the work of producing a number of tons of comb honey, some of which has been adjudged worthy of an award at public exhibitions, and we have never used a separator, with the exception of some 400 or 500 as an experiment one season, and at present the advantages of their use are, to our mind, very questionable.

OUR EXTRACTOR

C. Stanley Baxter, in American Bee-Keeper, comes out in defense of "farmer bee-keepers." Just right, Mr. Baxter, the farmer bee-keepers are in fact an advantage. It is, in our opinion, unscrupulous specialists who do the legitimate trade the most harm. We have them, more than some would suppose, who extract unripe honey, carry it to a town some distance away, and offer it at unreasonably low figures, while honest honey producers in that vicinity are offering nice honey at living prices. That, coupled with an under supply, is keeping prices down. We have never produced enough honey in the United States to create a general demand, and until a general demand is created prices will rule low. The law of supply and demand does not yet apply to honey.—Ruralist.

"Separators or no separators, fence or no fence, plain sections or sections with bee-ways—well, it sets my head in a twirl. The finest comb honey put on this market is produced by a bee-keeper that never uses separators or fences, but uses plain sections set a bee space apart in the super. Bees go all around the sections except where they rest on the bottom of the super."—C. A. Bunch in American Bee Journal. In the July number of the American Bee-Keeper, Editor Hill requests this picker to launch his idea in regard to a better filled section which I mentioned in a former note. You get the whole of my idea, Bro. Hill, in the above paragraph copied from Mr. Bunch's article; that is, full and free communication all around the section. And as to super construction to thus hold the sections in proper place, I think I am sufficient of a mechanic to know it is practical although I have not tested it.—D. W. Heise, in Canadian Bee Journal.

Yellow jackets have been more nu numerous this season past than ever before known in Oregon and they have been an almost unbearable pest in many of the farming communities, swarming into houses like flies, stinging all who dare to molest them in their raids upon sweet things and meats upon the table, they being voracious eaters and carrying off meat like starved hounds. They have been especially destructive on bees, hanging about the hives in droves and carrying off the honey-laden bees as they returned to their hives, by the hundreds, in many instances killing entire colonies of bees. A farmer's wife who has fought these audacious little highwaymen by all the methods heretofore known, hit upon a plan this season which soon freed her neighborhood of yellow jackets. Her plan was to set out glass fruit jars half filled with sweetened water, which attracted the insects by the hundreds and, entering the glass jars, were unable to get out. When she first put out the jars they required to be emptied several times during the day, so many yellow jackets having been captured, and in a short time scarcely a yellow jacket was to be seen about the premises.—Range and Ranch.

Bees and Horticulture.

The value of the honey bee to the horticulturist is hardly realized by many who are engaged in fruit growing. The setting of fruit that will stay on the tree depends chiefly upon proper pollination, and in this work the bee is largely instrumental. There are, of course, other instrumentalities, but none perhaps so effective. Experiments at the Oregon station with the peach throw a good deal of light on this subject. A number of peach trees were forced into bloom under glass in November, and a colony of bees was placed in the house with the trees as soon as the bloom began. For several days a heavy fog prevented the bees from working, but on the first bright day that came, the bees went to work and continued at it as long as there was anything on the trees to work on. The result was that at the stoning season, the time when unfertilized fruit drops, not a peach fell from the trees, and the crop was so heavy that it had to be severely thinned. As a check test, one tree was so protected that the bees could not get at it, and from this tree all the fruit dropped at the stoning period. Insects, and especially bees, which have the nectar-secreting instinct as a motive for labor on bloom, are an aid to pollination for which nature seems to have provided no adequate substitute. Their office is to distribute pollen from flower to flower, and from tree to tree. Much of the complaint about fruit falling would cease if horticulturists kept bees in the orchard. For the protection of bees the horticulturist should never spray while the trees are in bloom. He owes that much to these valuable assistants in his work.—Green's Fruit Grower.

The first successful shipment of bees to New Zealand was made by Judge Noah Levering, says Rambler, in Gleanings. Previous efforts to obtain Italian bees had failed, but in 1880 Mr. Levering shipped two colonies which made safely the sea voyage of 7,000 miles. Ample ventilation was given, the combs were old and strong, natural stores were used, and a sponge provided water which was renewed as needed. He made many subsequent shipments without a single loss.

* * *

R. C. Akin thinks foundation does not differ from natural comb in taste, but is tougher. The main object he has in using foundation in sections is to start the bees in the right place, a narrow strip at the top and one at the bottom being sufficient. But a full sheet has a good effect in the way of bait. He does not value full sheets to prevent drone-comb in sections, believing that drone-comb in sections looks just as well as worker-comb. The editor of Gleanings differs from him in this last view. Moreover, he has shown that nature-built drone-comb is considerably gobbier than worker-comb built on ordinary thin foundation.

* * *

A receipt for starting foul brood is thus given by J. F. Teel, in Gleaning "Cut out about three gallons of broo both drone and worker. Put it betwee ice so it will freeze to death, then put out in some warm place, about 70 or degrees. Keep it in bulk, and moist a the time for ten or twelve days; the put it in water, and make the bees s at it a few days, and that will be su ficient." Some people would prefer go without foul brood rather than to to all that trouble. The editor agre with many others that no foul broc can be started without the seed, that i the spores of bacillius alvei, Mr. Te believing, however, that the seed present in every larva, only developi under proper conditions.—Am. B Journal.

LITERARY NOTES.

ADVICE ABOUT CANNING FRUIT.

To prevent fruit jars from breakin dip a large towel in cold water, wrir it out half dry, fold double and place on the kitchen table; set jars on top the towel and fill them to overflowin with the boiling hot fruit. As each ja is filled, put on the cover and clos tightly. When all are filled, wash the in warm water and set them upsid down till cold. This is the best metho of finding out if the jars are all ai tight. Many jars often require tw rubbers to make them air-tight.—Fro "Preserving," by Mrs. Gesine Lemck in Demorest's Magazine for August.

TABLE TALK.

The August issue of "Table Talk furnishes excellent and timely readin and helps for the housewife. It open with an interesting article on "Way side Wanderings and Wedge-Woo Study," by Martha Bockee Flint, tha will interest most women; "Let Fa the Curtains," by Virginia Lynda Dunbar, who is widely known to th reading public. The article is a pra tical help to the housewife. Amon others are "The Olympian Banquet," "Peach Dainties," "Home Laundry," etc., etc., besides its regular practical departments so ably conducted by its regular staff of editors. A sample copy will be sent free to any of our readers addressing Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

NEW YORK, July 23.—Our market is in very good shape for the new crop of comb honey. We have had several shipments of White Comb from Florida, of late. This has sold from 10 to 11½c per lb. Market on Southern Extracted honey very steady, there being a good trade for the cheaper grades. We quote our market as follows: Ordinary at 50@53c per gal.; Good, 55@60c per gal. Florida White, 6c. New California is beginning to arrive. Beeswax market is quiet, prices ruling a little lower. We quote pure beeswax at 26½@27½c. Write us for shipping instructions.

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DETROIT, MICH.. July 15, 1898.—Demand slow, with light supply. Best White Comb, 11@12; Extracted, 5@6c. Fair demand for Beeswax, with light supply. Prices. 25@26c. New honey is coming in slowly.

M. H. HUNT,
Bell Branch, Mich.

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 18, 1898.—New comb honey is now coming in and while the demand is light, owing to the warm weather, yet it is being well taken. We quote our market as follows: Fancy, in cartons, 13; A No. 1, 11@12; No. 1, 10@11; No. 2, 9. Extracted, very little California on hand and selling readily at 6½@7½; Florida now arriving and selling at 5@6. White Clover scare and wanted.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE,
57 Chatham Street.

CLEVELAND, Aug. 9.—We quote our market as follows: New crop, Fancy White, 13@14; No. 1 White, 12@13; Fancy Amber, 10@11; No. 1 Amber, 9@10; Buckwheat, 8@9. Extracted, white, 7; amber, 6. The supply of new honey is very light, demand good, and old honey moving slowly.

A. B. WILLIAMS & CO.,
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KANSAS CITY, MO., June 15, 1898.—Good demand for honey. Light supply. Price of comb, 8 to 11c. per lb. Extracted, 4 to 5½c. per lb. Good demand for Beeswax, with light supply, at 25c. per lb. Old crop cleaned up and very little on the market.

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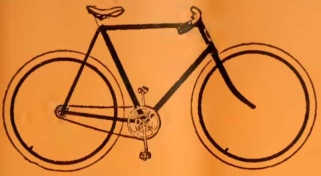

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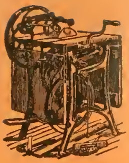

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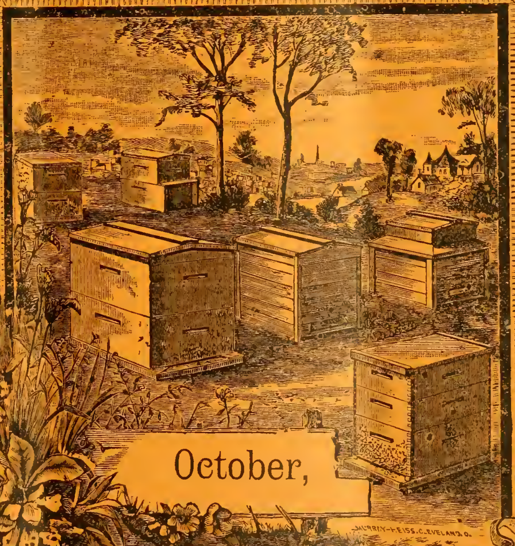
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October, 1898.

VOL. VIII. No. 10.

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I would have no difficulty whatever in getting twice 1,000 new subscribers this year if all the bee-keepers in this country had read the Review the past year. I have sometimes thought it *might* pay a publisher to give away his journal one year, simply for the sake of getting it into new hands. There are, of course, decided objections to such a course, but I am going to come as near to it as I dare. Here is my offer:

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Most people subscribe for a journal at the beginning of the year. In this case there is no use of waiting, as you will get the Review for next year just the same as though you waited until next January to subscribe; and you will get the rest of the numbers for this year, *free*. The sooner you subscribe, the more free issues you will receive.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. OCTOBER, 1898. No. 10.

From the Land of Flowers.

Report of a Southern Producer who is Satisfied with "Small" Things.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY W. S. HART.

FOLLOWING my custom of many years standing, I have just made out my annual report of the season's honey crop for this section of Florida for Gleanings. Feeling under some obligation to the American Bee-Keeper, and especially having a warm spot in my heart for its editor, I have concluded to remember it this season in the same way, but first, I wish to say that its editor is fully competent to answer all enquiries as to general bee-keeping in this state, and he is the one to apply to for such.

I had been counting our honey crop as rather a poor one until I saw Query No. 81 in the last American Bee Journal and, from the replies to it, learned that I had secured over two and two-thirds times the average for the past twenty-five years, of the twenty-one reporters from all over the country who replied as to extracted honey. Leaving out one report from California, that of Canada and one from Florida and it is almost exactly three times the average made in their bee-keeping experience. After this discovery I have concluded to be satisfied even if my crop of 148 pounds per colony, with plenty left in the hives for winter, does look small beside one of 353 pounds and individual yields of 550 to 600 pounds still fresh in my memory. Nor do I forget that last season showed the one total failure that I have ever known here. The season opened up with bees in poor shape as a rule and some feeding had to be done to prevent starvation. I fed about 1,000 pounds of honey to stimulate the queens and ward off famine in the hives. Mangrove is but slowly recovering from the effects of the great freezes of three years ago and for the second time in my experience here, gave no honey, though it bloomed freely. Outside of this source the honey prospects seemed good. A little later we began to suffer from the most severe drouth I have ever known here and forest fires burned the country over until it seemed as though nothing but cabbage palmetto (like mangrove not subject to injury from fire, flood or drouth) could be looked to for a crop. The amount of the saw palmetto crop was therefore a happy surprise to us and the cabbage palmetto gave its average yield. The extreme dryness of the air throughout the season caused the honey to be of extra heavy body and fine quality. It was never better.

The general average in this vicinity

is a little below my own and the number of colonies kept is greatly reduced from that kept before the great freezes and foul brood came, so the aggregate of the crop is far below what it used to be in the decade ending with 1894. The promise of a fall crop of surplus is unusually good at this time.

Foul brood has been thoroughly stamped out, so, with a few favorable seasons, we may hope soon to get back to our old figures again.

Some of the bee-keepers are holding their crop for higher prices, expected later in the season, but filling the orders that come to them from northern apiarists at present rates.

Hawks Park, Fla., Sept. 3, 1898.

Wintering Bees Out of Doors.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY C. B. HOWARD.

ACCORDING to the method of a great many writers and practical bee-keepers, the month of October is the time to prepare bees for winter. But it is far from my method of management. I make it a rule not to disturb a colony in any manner from Oct. 1 to April 1. The first and what I believe to be the most important factor in successful wintering bees is to secure a location well protected from the prevailing winds. This accomplished, the next thing necessary is to have a number of young queens available from early spring until Aug. 1, to supercede any old or unprolific queen which may appear, as colonies having such queens, if they do not die in the winter, will dwindle and die in the early spring, and many a novice attributes the loss to the moth, when in fact it is the lack of a queen able to supply a sufficient number of worker eggs to keep the colony in a populous condition.

C. B. HOWARD.

This accomplished, the next item to attend to is to have each colony well supplied with sufficient stores to last them until nectar abounds in sufficient quantity in the spring, which in this location is from fruit bloom about May 1. Colonies worked for comb honey in the frame hives will need no attention if they store surplus honey in August; those which do not should be looked after at this time and supplied or put in condition to supply themselves with the necessary food. The latter method is the one which I usually practice. Colonies worked for extracted honey should have the surplus arrangements removed in time to give the bees a chance to well fill the brood chamber with stores.

The above three things accomplished, a protected location, a prolific queen, pure stores of sufficient quantity, and the bees well packed in a double-walled hive that does not admit any water and free from disturbance of any kind either from man, mice or any other source, from Oct. 1 to April 1, yes, or even May 1, as I believe more colonies are lost by manipulation in April than are saved, will insure the apiarist against any serious losses in wintering out of doors even in our severest winters.

Romulus, N. Y.

Bees, it is said, were found by the Arctic explorer, Ejrind Asrup, in latitude 83, north, within seven degrees of the North Pole.

Extracting Thick Honey Late in the Season.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT writes, wishing to know how he can get thick honey out of the combs late in the season with the extractor. He has tried it previous years and made a failure of it, not securing more than 75 per cent. of what there was in the combs. He thinks that if extracting could be done as easily in the fall or early winter as in the summer time, it would be quite a saving to allow the combs of honey to remain on the hives till fall, then store the combs away and extract at "our leisure." He also wished to know if he could extract the honey from part filled sections late in the year. As this is an interesting subject, I am led to write a few words in the matter for The American Bee-Keeper.

Were it not that a much better article can be produced by leaving the honey on the hives until the end of the season, or until all is thoroughly sealed or ripened, I should be greatly in favor of extracting every third or fourth day during the honey flow; but after repeated trials of this kind, with nearly all kinds of artificial evaporation, I find that I cannot produce nearly so good an article of honey out of this thin nectar as can be produced by leaving it in the hives for the bees to care for. Hence, if we would have the best honey which can be produced, it becomes a necessity that we should extract thick honey.

Apiary of C. B. Howard, Romulus, N. Y.

When I received my first extractor it came in mid-winter, and being of such a make-up that I cannot wait long to see a new invention work, of course I must try it immediately; so I repaired to the honey house, took down some frames of honey I had stored away, uncapped them and tried the machine. As might be expected, the thing was a failure, especially as this extractor was one with no gearing, but whose can and all revolved by means of a handle, placed near the centre of the can. Perhaps some of the older readers may remember the "Peabody" machine, that being the one I first bought, and about the first really practical honey extractor in existence.

Upon going to bed that night I thought, of course, I could not succeed in throwing out frozen honey, for the extractor was made for use in the summer time when the weather is generally quite warm. It was nearly midnight when I ceased planning, and the next morning found me up bright and early, with several combs hanging up near the ceiling of a small room which I had in my shop, with a fire built and a thermometer hanging close by the combs of honey. I soon had the temperature of the room at the ceiling up to 95 degrees, where I kept it from then till near the middle of the afternoon. for I called to mind the reading of some of M. Quinby's writings, where he said that if a comb of solid honey was to be given to a colony of bees in the winter, it should be left in a warm room at least half a day before being set in with the bees, so that it would become thoroughly warmed through. In the afternoon I again tried the extractor, when I could easily throw out from 95 to 98 per cent. of the honey any comb contained. Even what was partially candied, or granulated, could nearly all be thrown out, and the combs hung away so clean that no bees were needed to clean them off to keep them from draining. By hanging the combs near the ceiling of the room, it does not take an extremely hot fire to keep the temperature at from 90 to 100 degrees, or even higher, if we have old tough combs. It is best to keep the combs in just as much heat as they will bear without breaking down, for from six to ten hours, and where kept in this way no one need have a pound of honey left in each comb, as was once reported by one who tried winter extracting. Another thing, the extracting, when done in this way, comes when there is little else to do, as hinted at by the correspondent, for late fall and early winter is comparatively a time of leisure with most bee-keepers, and by tiering up and leaving the honey on the hives until fall the extracting can be done when the cares of the busy season have passed by, and, unless the flowers so bloom that you must have a mixed honey, a quality of honey be obtained which will be a benefit to our market, instead of a curse, as unripe honey always is a curse to any market where put on the same.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

As to extracting honey from partly filled sections, I will say that since I found out this way of extracting honey I always leave my partly filled sections until I am through the hurry of my summer and fall work, unless I wish to feed the honey in them to the bees, and have no difficulty by this plan of securing from 96 to 97 per cent. of the honey in them without injury to the most fragile combs. To best extract the honey from these sections, I make a frame to hold the largest number of sections possible consistent with its going into the extractor, having the inside so accurately made that a given number of sections will fit into it rather tightly, the last one in, when properly made, keying the whole, as it were, so they can be handled as one frame, which simplifies the work very much. Where the combs are not attached to the sides and bottoms of the sections, as many of them are liable not to be, owing to the sections being only partly filled, it is best to turn slowly, until a part of the honey is gone out, when they should be reversed in the extractor, the other side gotten out clean, when they are reversed again and the honey from the first side thrown out clean also. This saves injuring the combs which are only slightly attached to the sections, and where from twelve to twenty sections can be placed in one holder. This extra reversing takes but little more time, when perhaps time hangs heavily on one who has been busy all summer. At any rate, I would rather spend my time in that way than in many of the doubtful amusements many enter into to "kill time," as they put it. Then, if these slightly attached sections are sorted out and put through the extractor by themselves, there need be but a few holders full of them to reverse in this way.

I have been thus particular in giving the details in this matter of extracting honey in cool weather, so that none who wish to so extract need make a failure, for it is the knowing about the little details of a matter which often makes all the difference between a success or a failure.

Borodino, N. Y.

John Atkinson, in American Bee Journal, appeals pleadingly to the supply manufacturers for a thumb-tack, upon the heads of which he wants plain numerals, letters and abbreviated words that will serve as a record when stuck into hives, frames, etc.

OUR
EXTRACTOR

Northern Michigan.

Some of the Conditions that have Made it an Excellent Honey Producing Locality.

"Bells' ding dong,
And choral song,
Deter the bee
From industry;
But hoot of owl,
And 'wolf's long howl,'
Incite to moil
And steady toil."

Northern Michigan, the home of the pine and the popple, bright with the beauty of the golden rod, gorgeous with the purple of the great willow herb, most emphatically illustrate the truth of the old German couplet that stands at the head of this article.

Nature, having had things pretty much her own way in this region until quite recently, and having plenty of time at her disposal, proceeded to raise a crop more valuable than Michigan will probably ever again produce—great forests of soft, white pine. But, now, alas! to the stroke of the woodman's axe, and the song of the circular saw, nearly all of these grand old forests have been floated down the rivers and out upon the sea of commerce.

Desolation is the one word that best describes that country from which the lumberman has stripped the pine timber. Stumps, logs, brush and fallen tree tops cover the ground in a confusion that is indescribable; while here and there, in their loneliness, with withered limbs outstretched, stand old dead, dry pines—ghosts of former grandeur.

After the summer's sun has poured down for many days upon this mass of resinous material, only a spark from some settler's clearing starts a fire that sweeps across the country mile after

A Northern Michigan Apiary.—*From Bee-Keepers' Review.*

mile, leaving the earth bare and blackened.

In the wake of these fires there spring up, as by magic, berry briers, goldenrod, fireweed and the incomparable willow herb. As all of these plants die in the fall, the earth and old logs and stumps are soon again covered with a mass of inflammable material; and the burning is almost sure to be repeated every two or three years. In fact, during a recent trip in northern Michigan, I learned that the willow herb is inclined to "run out" in two or three years, and is kept at its best only by these repeated burnings.

The engraving shows a northern Michigan apiary near Thompsonville, Benzie county. It is the property of Mr. Geo. E. Hilton, who owns two other apiaries in that locality. The man standing at the right is Mr. Hilton. Leaning against a raised hive-cover is Mr. John Calvert, Mr. Root's son-in-law. The little chap behind the veil is the son of the man who manages the apiary for Mr. Hilton, and is quite an enthusiast for a boy. The man in the foreground is the driver of the team that brought us in from Thompsonville. We took a drive a mile or more into the region shown in the background, winding here and there along the old woods-road and admiring the acres and acres of willow herb in full bloom. By the way, we found one stalk of pure white willow herb, something none of us had ever seen.

While on the train Mr. Hilton occasionally pointed out of the window and said: "Right there is a splendid location for an apiary." He did not reach this conclusion simply from what could be seen from the car window, but because he had been there and investigated. There are many places in this region where bees have access to raspberries, basswood and willow herb, and, as the land is cleared, white clover comes in and completes the chain, making one continuous flow from spring until fall.

For years to come, Northern Michigan will be an ideal location for honey production. That bee-keepers are becoming aware of the fact is shown by the way they are bringing in their bees. While we were at Mr. Hilton's apiary, his man told us that Mr. L. C. Woodman of Grand Rapids had just brought in 150 colonies, and so it goes. Regard for the rights of others, combined with self interest and the number of unoccupied locations, have thus far kept bee-keepers from crowding one another.

If any are led to consider the advisability of moving to northern Michigan, let me say, if accustomed to the comforts and advantages of civilization, don't forget that this is a new country. —W. Z. Hutchinson in Bee-Keepers' Review.

From a number of original compositions on animals, sent by a Boston teacher to the New York Sun, we take the following:

THE BARE.

"Bares are of many sighes and all big. The chief kinds are the grizzly bare which is black; the sinnermon bare which is good and gentle; the white bare which bleaches its skin to hide in the snow and make a rug, and the black bare which is common and is careful of its cubs. Bares fight bees for honey, which is mean because the bees are little. Once a bare found some currant jelly sitting on a garden bench to dry, and he ate it, and the lady hadn't any more, which was greedy. Bares are pigs. J. C. C."

BEES.

"Bees are always busy because the idle ones are killed. They make honey and wax, but parafeen candles are cheaper or else candles made out of whales. The bees build cells and combs and some times fill trees and bears smell the honey and eat it. They suck the juice out of flowers and the flower dies. Bees are meaner than mosquitoes, and you can tell them by the yellow bands on their abdomen. A. C."

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

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THE W. T. FALCONER MANFG CO.

H. E. HILL, - - - Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

Of the rocks upon which earlier hopes were wrecked the foundation of future success is built.

We regret to learn that Editor Hutchinson, of the Review, has recently been suffering from an attack of rheumatic fever.

A private code as used by him in keeping colony records, is given by J. E. Crane in the Review. Mr. Crane's experience with books in the apiary is like our own—as noted in The Bee-Keeper for April—very unsatisfactory. By his abbreviated system a board 4x20 inches accommodates the season's record of seventy colonies.

Mr. M. F. Reeve, of Rutledge, Pa., with his usual kind interest in The Bee-Keeper, has copied and sent us a lengthy extract from the writings of Sir John Lubbock, in which that eminent student of nature sets forth his futile efforts by various means to ascertain any effect of sound upon bees. He tried a violin, shrill pipe, shouting, tuning forks, dog whistle, etc., yet failed to elicit even a twitch of the delicate antennae in acknowledgement. It is nowhere recorded, however, that Sir John ever tried letting a top-bar down on the legs of a Cyprian worker.

To the apicultural firmament an exceedingly bright star has recently ascended. This is the impression we have received from a series of excellent articles in the American Bee Journal, on the subject of building up and maintaining a market for honey, contributed by Herman F. Moore, Esq., of Chicago. His style is pointed and rings with a vim and business enterprise, backed by bee-keeping knowledge, that will not be without lasting effect along the line of his travels in the interest of his honey trade. More Moores! is the crying need of American bee-keeping interests.

Every practical bee-keeper knows that the addition of empty room in excess of the requirements of a colony has a discouraging or retarding influence on its inclination to swarm, and likewise upon its work in the sections. According to the Bee-Keepers' Review, L. A. Aspinwall, of Jackson, Mich., has devised a method of giving this extra space without detracting the force from the super, by inserting dummies of peculiar construction between the combs of the brood chamber. The number of combs, we infer, is first reduced and those remaining more widely separated. A detailed account of the operation will be awaited with interest.

"Dr. S. H. Hurst says, in Gleanings, 'He who produces honey without a separator of some kind is just a little too slow to keep abreast of the times.' Per contra, Editor Hill says he had no idea that the majority of bee-keepers used separators, never used them himself except 400 or 500 as an experiment, and doubts their advantage."—American Bee Journal. Recalling experiences wherein we have assisted in producing without separators comb honey which brought the highest market price, in carload lots, we are led to question, with due respect to Dr. Hurst's observations, whether there is not among us a class of bee-keepers who are "just a little too"—swift?

MR. C. B. HOWARD.

The subject of this sketch, who, elsewhere in this number of The Bee-Keeper, acquaints our readers with his method of wintering out-of-doors, where is also presented a view of one of his three apiaries and a likeness of himself, is a young man of whom the bee-keeping world will probably know more with the advancement of time.

Mr. Howard was born in Broome county, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1869; was educated at the Ovid Academy, and later completed a business course at the Rochester University.

Superior bee-keeping advantages were recognized in Seneca county, and as young Howard had, either by acquisition or heritage from his father, who was also a bee-keeper, become deeply interested in the business, the family moved thither in January, 1884, and there have since resided.

Upon attainment of his majority, choosing the apiarian profession, C. B. purchased forty colonies, adopted the Bristol hive and launched his independent craft upon the turbulent sea of modern apiculture. During his maiden voyage he experienced some adverse weather, during which the tumultuous seas closed over twenty-two of his precious colonies and swept them away. Since that time, however, the sky of fate has been comparatively clear, and from the eighteen survivors has accumulated his present stock of 220 colonies, which are kept in three yards; two are run for extracted, and the third, herewith shown, for comb honey. From 150 colonies in 1895 Mr. Howard harvested six tons of honey, one-half of which was comb. An equal amount was taken also the following season.

He has served the Seneca County Bee-Keepers' Association as secretary and treasurer for the past five years, and, we believe, still holds the office. He took an active interest in the work of organizing the New York State Association of Bee-Keepers' Societies at Geneva last March; and being deeply interested in the general welfare of the industry is, of course, a member also of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union.

Dec. 14, 1893, being Mr. Howard's twenty-fourth anniversary, the occasion was beautifully commemorated by taking "unto himself an helpmeet." Though our informant has failed to enlighten us upon this point, we assume that the lady seen at the left in the picture is Mrs. Howard. As for the 3-year-old assistant wrestling with a "ten-frame" super, that's young Howard; we need not to be told.

WHY HYBRIDS PREDOMINATE, ETC.

"Gleanings thinks 'the majority of progressive bee-keepers use hybrids, because they secure as much honey as Italians, and more than blacks.' American Bee-Keeper thinks that is not the true reason why hybrids are in the majority, but does not say what the true reason is. Don't they have hybrids just because it is too much trouble to keep pure Italians?"—American Bee Journal. The Journal is reasoning on a logical line which might be extended to include the blacks, also. It is too expensive, as well as inconvenient, for the common bee-keeper to keep his stock pure, though he might have a decided preference for some distinct race or variety, and the natural result is a predominance of cross-breeds.

From past experience with hundreds, yes, thousands of colonies of Italians, blacks and hybrids, under widely different conditions, we have not yet been brought to recognize any superior honey-gathering qualities in the amiable beauties over the good, old-time Germans of more irritable disposition. That there may exist, in a general sense, a degree of superiority in this respect, we are neither inclined nor qualified to dispute. What we have seen and experienced is but a very small part of that which exists within the pale of American apiculture; yet, like all others, we have our own ideas and personal preferences, and this preference is emphatically in favor of the industrious strain which results from selection in breeding from energetic stock, regardless of race or color. This trait we have found as frequently or oftener in dark bees than among Italians. Nor does our experience accord with the conclusions of J. E. Crane, so interestingly expressed several months since in the Bee-Keepers' Review, that the excellent honey-gathering characteristic of the blacks is confined to localities yielding strong, dark and inferior grades of honey.

We have found the black race fully the equal of the Italians, as to working propensity, in localities where the chief crops come from basswood and clover, mangrove and cabbage palm, sage, bellflower, etc., all of which yield nectar of the lightest color and of mild or delicate flavor.

The bee-eating habit of the dragon fly is affirmed by Professor Cook in the American Bee Journal.

"Bee-Keeping in Cuba and Porto Rico" is the subject of an interesting paper by Mr. O. O. Poppleton, read before the Omaha convention. It will appear in our next issue.

THE U. S. B. K. U. CONVENTION.

The convention of the United States Kee-Keepers' Union was held as appointed in Omaha, Sept. 13-15. We had anticipated the pleasure of presenting some convention notes in this number, but up to the hour of going to press they have not yet arrived. We have, however, received copies of some of the essays, which are instructive and intensely interesting reading. We shall publish them later.

The meeting is said to have been the very best and most harmonious assemblage of bee-keepers ever held in this country by a national association.

Hon. E. Whitcomb, Friend, Neb., was elected president; C. A. Hatch, Ithaca, Wis., vice president. Dr. A. B. Mason was re-elected secretary.

Herman F. Moore in American Bee Journal discourages the practice of cleaning all the propolis, etc., from sections. He thinks in the eye of the prospective consumer these adherents impart convincing evidence of genuineness and purity—serve to remind them of the honey of childhood days, etc. This advocacy of retrogression contrasts strikingly with Mr. Moore's usually progressive views.

Short, "meaty" articles on bee-keeping subjects are always wanted at this office. The fewer words employed in clearly conveying an idea the better. If you have anything instructive or interesting to tell, write it up as concisely as possible and send it in, either definitely stating your price for same or leaving its value to be determined by the editor. Manuscripts thus submitted should be accompanied by return postage. Lengthy, verbose discussions cannot be accepted. Terse, pointed compositions, with photos for illustration, are especially desired and will be paid for immediately upon acceptance.

How the Union May Effectively Use what Strength It Has.

In answer to certain questions put to me, as to how the membership of the U. S. B. K's. U. could be increased so it could do effective work, I replied, in substance, let it go ahead and use the strength it has effectively, and its membership will be increased fast enough. In the American Bee Journal, page 505, the editor takes me to task, and says, in part, "we could name several large honey-adulterating firms here that would simply laugh at the presumption of an organization that numbers only a few hundred members with an equal number of dollars, attempting to fight their millions of dollars!" Let me say in reply that it isn't necessary nor desirable to attack the strongest organizations first. The United States army in Cuba first attacked Santiago, not Havana. Then the editor forgets that in such cases the action is criminal; and the people of the state prosecute and furnish the prosecutor and all the machinery necessary for a thorough trial. In this state, and I presume the same is the case in Illinois, the Union would not be permitted to secure the services of an additional attorney to assist at the trial. The work of the Union in such a case would be principally to discover evidence, and set the machinery in motion by making a complaint. If adulteration is carried on in Chicago in so public a manner as the language of the editor would imply, a very large sum of money ought not to be necessary to do the work required.—R. L. Taylor, in Review.

The British Bee Journal says: "It is probable that 1898 will be set down in bee history as a record year for the production of what is known as 'honey-dew.'" We hear numerous complaints of the same stuff in America this year, also. The trouble seems to be universal.

Sprig of Willow-herb.

(Bee-Keepers' Review.)

NEWS AND NOTES.

A writer in Australian Bee Bulletin reports a startling loss of bees by working on wisteria bloom.

Writing from Honolulu to the Southland Queen, C. F. Wolf says there are not to exceed a half-dozen bee-keepers in the Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. Harry S. Howe now has under contemplation a special course in entomology at Cornell.

The Courtland County (N. Y.) Bee-keepers' convention, held at Freeville Sept. 8, was not largely attended, owing to the recent death of Mr. Miles Morton.

Of Porto Rico, W. K. Morrison, in Gleanings, says: "It is a very fine bee country. It is the only part of the Spanish colonies worth owning." While referring to the same country a current newspaper item reads: "A peculiarity of the island is that neither snakes or flowers are found, as in other tropical countries."

It appears by comments in some of our exchanges that difficulty is occasionally experienced by some in placing the papers neatly in the bottom of shipping cases. This is really one of the nicest as well as easiest parts of the work in preparing a crop of comb honey for the market. Our method is to have a "follower" one inch thick, cut to fit the case, leaving one-eighth inch "play" all around, through which a number of air-holes are bored, and a handle attached to the centre of one side. Place the sheet of paper squarely upon the case, the follower upon the paper at an equal distance from the edges, and with a simultaneous movement of the right and left hands fold the two opposite corners neatly against the edges of the follower, then likewise of the remaining two, and immediately the whole will begin to settle; grasp the handle with the right hand, pressing it firmly to the bottom, and with a rotary motion the paper is snugly fitted into each corner. Withdraw the board and the job is done in one-fourth the time it takes to tell how, and that without breaking the paper. All corners of the follower should be square and sharp to do a neat job.

A solution of the perplexing "market problem," so far as comb honey is concerned, is offered in Gleanings by G. K. Hubbard. His advice to bee-keepers is to have honey carefully graded, don your Sunday clothes and assuming an air of becoming dignity, businesslike yet very gentlemanly, become your own drummer. Sell from the wagon in neighboring towns, direct to the grocer. Strike for big sales; the dealer will feel flattered if you observe that his apparent large trade would soon move your "small" load of fifteen or twenty cases. Have confidence and bring to bear your business tact. You have the advantage of the regular commercial traveler in selling honey. The grocer takes no chances when buying of you of having unfinished and unsaleable sections in his stock, no breakage in shipping or shortage to stand. Your allowance for return of cases in good condition more than offsets the customary cash discounts given by jobbing houses. Call his attention to the fact that your dark grade is no less pure and wholesome than "fancy," and to the advantage of having this cheaper grade also to meet the demand and possible lower price of any competitor. Sell a case at the bakery, too; fresh rolls and honey go well together. Try the fruit stores. Honey will not spoil on the dealer's hands and there is a good profit for him in handling it. Have your name on every case and keep the trade supplied. Mr. Hubbard says it's easy and it pays to thus develop a market.

Speaking of L. A. Aspinwall, whom he recently visited, the editor of the Review says: "In the way of section cleaners it is safe to say that he has now cut the ground from under all future inventors in that line." It is Mr. Aspinwall's intention to patent his invention.

"Be sure you're right, then go ahead, regardless of the road others take."

Mr. Miles Morton, one of New York's oldest and most able and respected bee-keepers, died at his home in Groton, Sept. 1st.

To introduce a capped queen-cell, Jacob Alpaugh simply inserts it in the entrance, "allowing it to rest upon its side," says the Canadian Bee Journal.

C. B. Howard has just increased his number of colonies, by purchase, to 275. This gives Mr. Howard four apiaries with which to begin next season. Success to his enterprise.

J. Kerr in Australian Bee Bulletin strongly maintains that bees recognize and distinguish members of their own colony from intruders by sight and not by sense of smell as generally believed.

Bitter honey, of which occasional complaint is heard, is said by L. K. Edgett, of Titusville, Pa., to be gathered from chestnut bloom. Regarding the color and quality of milkweed honey Mr. Edgett's observation accords with our own, as stated on page 158.

The American Bee Journal office was recently visited by Mr. W. J. Packard, of Wisconsin. who reported his crop of extracted basswood honey to be 50,000 pounds from 400 colonies this year. "Mr. Packard's wife and daughter," says the editor, "seem to manage the bees. And judging from the yield they know how." Well, well! Now there's women folks worth having.

A veritable deluge of honey, which "drabbled" the pulpit, pews, chancel, alter and the rest of a church in California, according to the American Bee Journal, resulted from the melting down of a "powerful bees' nest" in the loft, where they had taken up their abode. No dates are given, but if the incident occurred this season, the honey was probably thoroughly ripe.

Before your Bee-Keeper is read see if its wrapper is not red.

OUR
CORRESPONDENTS

Romulus, N. Y., Aug. 23, 1898.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Dear Sir:—At the thirty-first semi-annual meeting of the Seneca County Bee-Keepers' association the following report was given, which will give you an idea of the shortness of our white honey crop for 1898:

Number of bee-keepers reported.	15
Number of colonies reported.....	2,260
Number of pounds of white honey extracted...............	11,550
Number of pounds of white comb honey..................	10,820
Total pounds.................	22,370

You will see this gives an average of about ten pounds per colony, which is about one-sixth of an average crop of white honey in this locality.

Buckwheat honey has been coming in quite freely for the past three days. We are in hopes to get a fair yield from that source.

Yours truly,
C. B. HOWARD,
Secretary.

Poplar Ridge, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1898.

W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.:

Supplies received in good shape and they are more than satisfactory. Thanks for your promptness and liberality. Yours truly,
ISAAC MEKEEL.

Middletown, N. Y., Sept. 8, 1898.

American Bee-Keeper:

Our honey crop in this section is but about one-half that of last year. My experience with the 3⅝x5 sections is that bees work in them no better nor fill them any fuller than the 4¼-4¼ under the same conditions, as to flow of honey and strength of colony, and my full ones weigh only three-fourths of a pound. How they will take in this market is yet to be tested.

Yours truly,
CHESTER BELDING.

LITERARY NOTES.

BARNUM'S MIDLAND FARMER.

The latest acquisition to our exchange list is Barnum's Midland Farmer, published at St. Louis, Mo. Though Vol. 1, No. 5, indicates its present infantile period of existence, its contents tell as plainly of ripe experience upon the part of its editorial manager, W. M. Barnum. The name is not new to readers of apicultural literature, and is doubtless the same "Will M." who formerly dated his contributions to these columns from Denver. We wish the Midland Farmer success.

WORK OF THE ARCHITECT.

We are in receipt of a large book of designs of 190 studies of houses from W. J. Keith of New York and Minneapolis, who has become famous through his own merits and his articles in the Ladies' Home Journal. The designs are for houses costing from $1,500 to $3,500. The book sells for $1, and will be sent to any one by the author upon the receipt of the stated price. A book containing eighty designs of houses costing less than $1,500 will be furnished for 50c. If you are planning to build you will save money by purchasing one of these two books.

Another good offer of Mr. Keith's is to submit a sketch with exterior and interior planned of any house concerning which you can give him your personal idea as to what is desired. His charge for this service is but $5. Of course the sketch submitted is not the complete architect's working drawings, but will give you a definite ground work. If desired he will furnish the estimates and complete architect's drawings from the submitted sketch.

TABLE TALK.

For reliable and new recipes—for a cursory and condensed outline of the many interests of the woman of today, read Table Talk. The September number gives the usual departments, menus, decorations and suggestions for the dining room and kitchen—fashions, entertainments and so forth to aid the hostess; and among its leading articles are "Amateur Illustration," by Mrs. Burton Kingsland; "Treasure Trove," by Martha Bockee Flint; "The Dollar Luncheon," by George Y. Kerr; "Below Stairs," by Minna C. Hale; "Catalina Sea Food," by Isabel B. Winslow, and an article on Books, by Miss Mary Lloyd. Truly the home-maker should not be without it. A sample copy may be secured free, by our readers, if they send their name and address to Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

WHEN THEY WRITE THE PRESIDENT.

The state department has given over to The Ladies' Home Journal for publication its "Royal letters" addressed to the President of the United States by Napoleon I, Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales, Napoleon III and Emperor William I of Germany. Napoleon announces such events as his marriage to Marie Louise; the birth of his son, the king of Rome; his return to the throne of France from Elba; Victoria announces her accession to the throne of England in 1836; her marriage to Prince Albert; the birth of the Prince of Wales; the death of the Prince Consort; and the famous letter thanking President McKinley for his congratulations on her Diamond Jubilee will also be given. The whole collection, in fac-simile, will be presented in the October number of the magazine.

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS' NEW STORIES.

John Kendrick Bangs' newest stories are to appear in The Ladies' Home Journal. They are called "Stories of a Suburban Town." There are several, and each will relate some droll incidents in the life of a small town which every "suburbanite" will instantly appreciate and enjoy laughing over.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

DETROIT. MICH.. Sept. 8, 1898.—There is light supply of honey on our market at present, with good demand at 10@11c. for comb, and 5@6c for extracted. Demand for beeswax is slow, with fair supply. Prices 25@26c.

M. H. HUNT,
Bell Branch, Mich.

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 16, 1898.—The fall demand for honey is now opening and from present indications we look for good prices right through the season. We quote our market as follows: Fancy White, in Cartons, 14c; A No. 1, White, 12½ @13c.; No. 1, White, 11@12c.: No. 2, 10@12c. California extracted is practically out of the market. Flordia in barrels is selling for 6@7c. according to quality. Beeswax 26@27c. per lb. Very light. Stock, only fair demand.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE,
57 Chatham Street.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 9.—Honey in good demand with fair supply. We quote our market to-day, comb, 8 @ 13c. Extracted, 5 @ 7. Beeswax is in good demand with very light supply, selling at 26 to 28c.

A. B. WILLIAMS & CO.,
80-82 Broadway.

KANSAS CITY, MO., Sept. 7, 1898.—Good demand for honey. Good supply. We quote white comb, 12½ @ 14c. Extracted, 5 @ 6½c.

HAMBLIN & BEARSS,
514 Walnut Street.

ALBANY, N. Y. Sept. 12, 1898—Honey in good demand now and receipts light. The earlier yon ship now the better prices will get. White Comb, 12@13c.; mixed, 11@12c.; dark, 9@10c.; extracted light, 6@6½c.; mixed, 5½@6c. ; dark 5c.

H. R. WRIGHT.

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 10, 1898.—Honey has sold well for past few days and all of the best white comb that is in proper shape sells at 12c.; off grades of white, 10@11c.; amber, 9@10c.: dark grades, 7@8c.; extracted white, 5 @ 7c.; amber, 5@6c. and dark 4½@5c. Beeswax, 27c.

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Bishop McCabe, of New York, on Dr. James' Headache Powders.

"With regard to James' Headache Powders, I have no hesitation in commending them to suffers from headache. They relieve the pain speedily, and I have never known anyone to be harmed by their use. The Dr. James Headache Powders have, however, greatly relieved me at times, and I never allow myself to be without them, and have recommended them to others freely. "C. C. McCABE."

For sale by H. W. Davis, Falconer, N. Y.

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on our subscription list before the close of the century.

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If you are interested in bee-keeping, you can hardly afford to neglect this opportunity. Substantial additions have been made to our list every month this year; but it will be necessary to increase the rate at which they are now coming, to give us the 10,000 new ones in the specified time. We shall, therefore, constantly endeavor to improve the paper and hope by this generous offer to add several hundred this month. You are invited to join us. Address

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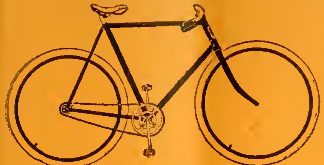

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The BIGGEST OFFER YET.

Last year only about 1 per cent.—only one subscriber in 100—ordered his Review discontinued. If the Review could secure 1,000 new subscribers the present year, there is almost absolute certainty that at least 900 of them would remain, not only next year, but for several years—as long as they are interested in bees. Once a really *good* journal visits a bee-keeper a whole year, it usually becomes a permanent member of his family.

I would have no difficulty whatever in getting twice 1,000 new subscribers this year if all the bee-keepers in this country had read the Review the past year. I have sometimes thought it *might* pay a publisher to give away his journal one year, simply for the sake of getting it into new hands. There are, of course, decided objections to such a course, but I am going to come as near to it as I dare. Here is my offer:

If you are not a subscriber to the Review, send me $1.00 and I will send you twelve back numbers, the Review the rest of this year, and all of next year.

Each issue of the Review, especially if devoted to the discussion of some special topic, is really a pamphlet containing the best thoughts and experience of the best men upon the topic under discussion. Twelve back numbers of the Review are, to a certain extent, so many little books devoted to as many different phases of bee-keeping. Some issues of the Review are now out of print; of others only a few copies are left; while of others there are several hundred. Of course I shall send those of which I have the greatest number.

Most people subscribe for a journal at the beginning of the year. In this case there is no use of waiting, as you will get the Review for next year just the same as though you waited until next January to subscribe; and you will get the rest of the numbers for this year, *free*. The sooner you subscribe, the more free issues you will receive.

Let me tell it once more: For $1.00 you can get twelve back numbers, the Review the rest of this year, and all of 1899.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.

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WHERE THE BEES REVEL IN JULY.

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. NOVEMBER, 1898. No. 11.

Improving Our Resources.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY ED. JOLLEY.

IF one-half the energy that is now expended in inventing new hives and other appliances; searching for new races of bees; breeding for beauty, etc., were turned to the betterment of the honey resources of the country, bee-keeping as a business, would be a more lucrative one. For it matters not what kind of bees we keep, nor what hive we use, our object is to secure honey. And it matters little whether the hive we use is large or small, double or single, with fixed or hanging frames; whether we use plain sections with a fence, or the more common ones, for all these have to do with producing honey is their respective conveniences. And no race of bees can produce honey beyond what they can gather from the flora within the radius of their flight. If the flora is wanting, no improvement in hives or bees can attone for it. No application of scientific methods can overcome it.

No one can be a true bee-keeper and not be interested in his honey-producing flowers. Their increase and preservation should be as important to him as the welfare of his colonies. Every bee-keeper should have a thorough knowledge of the honey-producing plants of his neighborhood. He should know exactly when to expect the flow from this and from that. In fact, he must know it if he would be prepared to make the most out of it when it comes.

It is a lamentable fact that some of our best honey producers have decreased wonderfully during the last two or three decades. The plough and the reaper now hold supremacy over the then vast fields of white clover. The beautiful lindens that once decked alike the hills and the valleys over a large portion of North America have been greatly devastated, and in many localities completely "wiped out."

These two great honey plants are deserving of more than a passing interest. The American Linden or basswood (Tilia Americana) is as the name implies an American tree, being indigenous to the forest of North America. It is one of America's most beautiful and useful trees. It is a rapid grower, and when properly trained, it makes one of the finest of shade trees. It is adapted to nearly all kinds of soils, and thrives over the greater part of North America. It is easily propogated, and can be raised either from the seed or from slips or cuttings. The best way to start the seed, is to go into the forest, rake the old rotted leaves from a plot of ground, stir the top soil lightly with the rake, and then sow the seeds and cover lightly with well-rotted leaves or compost. Do this in the fall of the year, and the next fall the starts are ready to transplant. To start from slips, cut early in the spring and stick the cutting in a marsh or wet ground. The swelling or expanding buds will draw nourishment from the ground and will soon throw out roots or feeders. Slips started in the spring will be ready to transplant the following spring.

As a honey producer it has no superior. Coming in bloom about the middle of July, just as the white clover is going out.

But it has other values than as honey and ornamental shade trees. Its beautiful, soft, white and pliable wood has been in such demand as to almost threaten complete extermination. Now, I do not believe in planting anything in valuable land for the sake of honey alone. But, if every bee-keeper would see that all his needful shade trees were of the linden, and plant them liberally on the waste and untillable land, and laud their praises far and wide to induce others to do so, in a few years we would have something like the old-time basswood honey crops.

That white clover is a valuable honey plant is not to be wondered at, when we consider that it is a member of a family that has many representatives on the honey producing list. Trefolium repens, or creeping clover, is a member of the pulse family, or what the botanists call leguminous. So named because the seed of this family is raised in a legume or pod, which opens on both sides, as the pea, bean, etc.

This family of plants contains about 6,500 different species, many of which yield honey. The pulse family is divided into three divisions. Our clovers belong to the first or papilionaceous division. It was so named by Linnaeus because the flowers of this division, when in full bloom, resembled a butterfly. Papilio being the Latin for butterfly.

The reader may have noted this resemblance in the pea and the bean. Now, if you will take a head of clover and put it under a microscope you will see that is not a single flower but a collection of many in one. Seperate one of these blossoms and you will see a perfect bean or pea blossom. Select a well-ripened head, and pull off one of the dried blossoms, and underneath you will find a perfect little bean shape. Open it carefully and, lo, you will find a perfect bean.

To this division of the pulse family, belongs all our clovers, peas, beans, honey-locust and a mighty host of others that yield more or less honey.

White clover is a biennial. The plant that germinates from the seed this year will bloom and bear seed the next, when the old plant will give way again to the seed. If by any means, such as cold or wet weather, during bloom of white clover, the bees do not visit them frequently enough, they will be improperly fertilized, and the perfect seed will, therefore, be scarce; which accounts for white clover frequently being scarce. And when it is very scarce it will often take two or three years before it regains its full standing.

Now, for all this seed costs, every bee-keeper could provide himself with a few pounds and scatter along the roadside and streams, fence-corners, pasture fields, and through the woods, and by so doing the honey crop from this source would be materially increased.

Franklin, Pa.

If you have a bee-keeping friend who is not a subscriber to this paper, kindly direct us to send him a sample copy.

National Queen Breeders' Union.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY J. O. GRIMSLEY.

WITH your permission I will supplement Mr. Case's article in the September Bee-Keeper, and hope to be able to show the necessity for such an organization.

To begin with, there were six of us (a hexagon, you see), entered into the work of organizing. Besides the four officers mentioned in your editorial, page 157, there were W. H. Laws, of Arkansas and W. H. White, of Texas. I mention these because they are as much entitled to credit in effecting the organization as any of the officers. In this connection I can do no better than quote from Mr. Secor's article, page 113, American Bee-Keeper for July:

"Men lay their heads together, form alliances for mutual protection and thereby gain strength impossible to the single worker."

Again he says:

"Men interested in a common purpose are enabled to unite on a common plan of action and work to some effect."

Thanks to Mr. Secor for such a fitting expression; nothing could be more to the point in our organization than what he says. For years the queen breeders have been hobbling along, single-handed, each trying to make the strongest points, and the result is we have but little improvement. Since the organization of the Union we have a "company" of breeders, each independent, yet with one "common purpose are enabled to unite" in improving the honey bees of our nation, without the jealousy that formerly existed between individual breeders. So much for the plan of improvement. I quote again from Mr. Secor, pages 113 and 114:

"For instance, it is too large a job for one bee-keeper to attempt to fight adulteration of honey, etc."

What applies to adulteration of honey, in that case, is just as applicable to the professional "dead-head" and the hap-hazard breeder in our own ranks. Right here I will quote from a letter received from one of our leading apicultural lights in reference to our organization. He says:

"I somewhat question the wisdom of the move. There is only one queen-breeder that I now recall whose reputation, both for square dealing and prompt pay, has not been all that we could desire, and it seems almost unnecessary to form an association simply to bar out such a person as he."

To me there seems to be a lack of wisdom—no, I will say enterprise—in the expression. If we were organizing for the purpose of "barring out" certain persons, then there would be a lack of wisdom. It is true that our doors are closed against all dishonesty, but instead of stopping to fight a common enemy, it is our purpose to advance right along over them. Unscrupulous breeding was one of the causes that lead to our organization. Queen-buyers are at the mercy of the breeders, and, of my personal knowledge, many are badly deceived in the quality of queens they get. On that account all queen breeders are looked upon with a degree of distrust. I have seen prominent queen breeders use "hap-hazard" cells by the hundreds and send out "untested" queens from these very cells (the writer of the above mentioned letter has bought scores of them, to my knowledge). Then, is it any wonder that the thought of protecting buyers against such should spring up? Then, at this day and time there are scores of "upspurts" (like myself) that, as soon as they get a smattering of the business, want to pose as a breeder. Can all such be trusted with the strength and prosperity of your "stocks?"

We all agree on one thing, and that is, the queen bee is the foundation for successful bee-keeping. The queen being the foundation, we want one that is solid. Then there is no branch of apiculture that needs more thorough organization than that upon which apiculture is built. Let's make the foundation solid.

In a further correspondence with the party quoted from, he says:

"The queen breeders can almost be counted on the fingers of one hand. If they represented a large number, up in the thousands, then such an association would come in play."

To satisfy myself, I picked up a number of bee papers and in less than ten minutes counted forty-four advertisements of different parties offering queens for sale, besides twenty-seven supply dealers, most of whom sell queens. These may not all be breeders, but to the purchaser of queens they are all the same. But if we numbered only a half dozen, why not organize? Well, we have organized, and now would appreciate the encouragement of all enterprising bee-keepers and breeders.

All worthy breeders are welcomed to our Union, and when you get in we will see to it that you walk just right, and if you don't you might as well "take down your sign."

I have already written more than was my purpose, but hope you will bear with me, and if there is any further information that any of us can give, we will gladly do so.

Byrdstown, Tenn.

COMMENTS.

Suggestions and Notes Called Out by the August Issue.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY J. W. TEFFT.

I AM in receipt of a sample copy of The American Bee-Keeper, for which I hereby subscribe for one year.

You say it is published in the interest of bee-keeping. I see it is not devoted entirely to your goods. I notice an article in the August issue, page 131, "The Market Problem;" then I turn to page 147, the same issue, and see you publish honey market reports from commission men. These commission men ruin our markets. They are the ones who set prices on our honey and make it a difficult task to get remunerative prices. I think it all wrong for bee papers to insert the commission merchants' price list. The editors could state what honey is bringing at the different marts, but not the names of the firms. You see, it is like this: The commission merchant gets one profit, the grocer one profit, before it reaches the consumers. Thus, the bee-keeper supports the commission merchant and the grocer. See?

I see also on pages 129 and 130 in the same issue "How to Introduce a Valuable Queen." Now, that is all right, but I have a better way—a way that I have never lost a queen by introduction. It is this way: I remove the "whole business," bees, hives and all, to a new stand, place a new hive on the old stand, return to the old hive, hunt up the old queen and the frame upon which I find her I place in the new hive on the old stand, give her some empty drawn comb and a frame or so of honey. While doing this, you see, the old bees go home to the new hive. The object is to draw off the old bees so as to introduce the valuable queen to the young bees and hatching bees only. Young bees will take the new mother readily. As the old bees are the ones that would kill the new queen, I merely readjust the brood nest and place the caged queen on top of the frames, giving the bees access to the food in the cage.

This plan saves time and an immense lot of unnecessary fussing as per article on page 129.

On page 133, "Prevention of Increase," by C. Theilmann, I observe that he allows his bees to swarm once.

Now, that is all right, but I don't do so. I do not allow my bees to swarm before or after the harvest, and in doing so I can make my increase as much or as little as I desire, or not at all, by dividing after the white honey harvest is over. My plan is to have an adjustable brood chamber in a large hive—one that I can expand or contract at will. This plan is no experiment I am using it this very day, and obtain results that "astonish the natives."

No caging of queens, no swarming, no clipping of wings, no cutting out queen cells, no waiting for the seventh day for a queen to hatch and no dequeening as per article on page 133.

Here is a sample obtained from one colony:

An increase of three full colonies, which are or have been working on buckwheat and fall flowers, and from which I shall obtain over 200 pounds of extracted honey, $10; comb honey, $21; increase (three colonies full-blooded Cyprians), $15; nine young queens, $9; total, $55.

My plan, with the Acme hive, is surely a success.

South Wales, N. Y.

OUR
CORRESPONDENTS

United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Entomology,
Washington, D. C., Sept. 30, 1898.
W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co., Falconer, N. Y.:

Dear Sirs:—I fully appreciate the improvements you have been making the past season in The American Bee-Keeper and hope you may succeed in your plan of adding greatly to your subscription list for the coming year. Enclosed are three names to help a little. Kindly send, for enclosed money order for $1.50, The Bee-Keeper from October 1, 1898, to Jan 1, 1900, to each of the three as per offer in last number.

Very truly yours,
FRANK BENTON.

Mountain View, N. J., Oct. 14, 1898.
The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.

Gentlemen—Please find enclosed a check to balance account. Would have sent it sooner but have been perfecting plans and intended to send an order at same time. The foundation you sent me is the best I have ever used, the bees accepted it and made the whitest comb produced this year. I noticed its softness and marked each super in which it was used. I shall use no other. All the supplies received from you are better than from any other house.

I had some separators from you two years ago, 3-32 thick, planed both sides, and find less propolis on them than the sawed ones, and they keep their shape better, in fact, do not wrinkle at all. I suppose you can furnish them planed of that thickness now?

Though the early part of the season was very unfavorable, still, the fall has given me about 1,200 pounds, and the bees have abundant stores to keep them until the next flow of nectar, and I have thirty-six colonies to carry through.

Very truly yours,
B. F. Onderdonk

Cincinnatus, N. Y., Oct. 5, 1898.
The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.:

As I promised to let you hear something of my experience with the new dovetailed supers and bored separators, will try and do so now. As it was rather along in the honey flow before I received them, I could not tell as well in regard to the willingness of the bees to occupy them, as they were used in tiering up.

I put them up, according to Pettit's plan, of a bee space outside of the sections, or rather a separator outside, and a bee space between separator and side of super. This gave me room for six brood frames to the super, or twenty-four sections. From my observations so far I am led to think that the bees will enter the supers more readily than ordinary ones; that they will work on the outside row of sections and fill them generally as quick as the others. I am inclined to believe, but hardly dare say it, that they will store more honey in them.

In regard to holes in the corners of filled sections, I could see no material difference. I think we must go farther for that, probably, on the line of full sheets of foundation, giving less surplus room, leaving sections on longer, etc. One or all of these, but I can't say that I like any of them except full sheets, which I shall test next season. I have made up my mind to one thing, and that is that my supers will all be fixed with a bee space outside of the outside row of sections. I have seen enough this season to satisfy me on that point.

I may say that from thirty-three swarms, some of which did not fill one super, I have taken 2,000 pounds of comb honey, and that with a drouth during clover bloom. Yours truly,

O. E. NICHOLS.

Annin Creek, Pa., Sept. 13, 1898.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Dear Sir:—Since reading your editorial on milkweed honey in the September number of the American Bee-Keeper, I thought I would give my experience.

There is considerable milkweed in this vicinity and it is increasing every year.

If I mistake not, it is in bloom at about the same time as sumac and remains in bloom until and during part of basswood bloom. For that reason I have been unable to secure any which was anywhere near pure. I have hundreds of sections of honey which have the sulphur-colored cappings.

Some of the honey is very light-colored, while a little of it shows the reddish tinge, but all, if I mistake not, is from the same flowers. That which is the lightest colored has a very agreeable flavor, while that which has the reddish tinge is much stronger and is by no means equal to white clover.

Although this honey may not contain any basswood honey, it does contain honey gathered from sumac and other honeys, possibly a little raspberry or clover and other kinds which I do not know.

Honey gathered during milkweed bloom and such other flowers as may be in bloom at this time, is of a very high specific gravity. I have a good many sections 4¼x1⅞ which weigh more than one pound and a few which tip the scales at 18½ ounces. These sections were every one of them built between separators, although they were loose-fitting, perhaps 1-16 inch play in some instances or possibly a little more.

I will make more definite observations next year and try to learn more about milkweed honey.

The last few numbers of The American Bee-Keeper are the best that have ever been published, that is, allowing me to be the judge. They suit me the best. Yours truly,

G. F. TUBBS.

Driving Bees to Pasture.

When Aaron Snyder, of Kingston, took his honey bees out for a drive in the country the other day and left them to spend a few weeks amid rural sights and sounds on Dr. C. O. Sahler's farm, near Kyserike, Ulster county, he created quite a breeze of excitement among the persons along the road, and had to stop many times to explain what he was doing. The idea of sending bees to the country for the benefit of their health is full of novelty to the average man, who has come to regard a bee as the most cranky and pestiferous thing alive.

Yet, as Mr. Snyder explains, there is an excellent reason for taking the bees to the country, and it is really no more remarkable than taking cows to pasture. The principle is in the main the same, although by moving the bees, color and quality of the honey they make is thus controlled. It is a fact well known to bee fanciers that bees will only go about three miles from their home to gather honey from the flowers. Another fact equally well known is that there is in buckwheat flowers a larger amount of honey than in any other flower that grows in any quantity. This honey, although dark in color, has a very agreeable flavor, and is preferred to any other.

Buckwheat is not very plentiful within three miles of Mr. Snyder's apiary and therefore he is moving 100 hives of bees to a location in the country where they can find plenty of it. Half of these bees are taken to Kyserike and the other half to a place about two miles north of Stone Ridge. When the buckwheat has died off the bees will be brought back to their home in Kingston.

Mr. Snyder has kept bees for twenty-five years and has made a study of their habits, which fits him to care for them with the required profit. When asked if his bees would not get lost taking them into a strange country, he said: "No; there is no danger of that, if the hives are always moved while the bees are in them. But if, while the bees are out in the fields gathering sweets, the hive is moved, they will return straight to the place where the hive was and cluster there. A bee returns on a route 'straight as a bee line' to the place it starts from, and as the queen bee remains in the hive, the bees go right on making honey in this hive, according to their nature."

It is said that the idea of moving bees to pasture is carried on to a large extent along the Mississippi, where the hives are taken from place to place down or up stream on flat boats, that anchor during the day and are moved on at night while the bees are all in the hives, thus keeping them in fresh pasture all of the time.—New York Herald.

Days Gone By.

O, the days gone by! O, the days gone by!
The apple in the orchard and the pathway through the rye;
The chirrup of the robin, and the whistle of the quail,
As she piped across the meadows sweet as any nightingale:
When the bloom was on the clover, and the blue was in the sky,
And my happy heart brimmed over in the days gone by.

In the days gone by, when my naked feet were tripped
By the honeysuckle's tangles, were the water-lillies dipped,
And the ripple of the river lipped the moss along the brink,
Where the placid-eyed and lazy-footed cattle come to drink,
And the tilting snipe stood fearless on the truant's wayward cry,
And the splashing of the swimmer in the days gone by.

O, the days gone by! O, the days gone by!
The music of the laughing lip, the luster of the eye;
The childish faith in fairies and Aladdin's magic ring,
The simple, soul-reposing, glad belief in everything,
When life was like a story, holding neither sob nor sigh,
In the olden, golden glory of the days gone by.

James Whitcomb Riley.

BEE-KEEPING IN CHILI.

Editor Juan Dupont-Lafitte, of "El Apicultor Chileno," the bee-paper of Chili, South America, in a recent letter to The Bee-Keeper, says: "Apiculture has a grand future in this Chili of ours. It is yet in an undeveloped condition, but a new era is dawning and we are at the front of the battle." It is always interesting to read of conditions and methods existing in foreign lands, and we are pleased to announce that Senor Dupont-Lafitte has consented to contribute an illustrated article on bee-keeping in Chilli which we hope to publish in the near future. Mr. Dupont-Lafitte has recently been chosen "correspondent member" of an apicultural federation in Belgium.

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EDITORIAL.

We have on hand at present a number of excellent articles to appear during the coming "reading season," in The Bee-Keeper.

The American Bee Journal says: "Many persons speak of bees being 'run out' by moths. Why not say the weeds run out the corn?"

E. W. Brown, Eden, N. Y., reports in American Bee Journal that while his apiary is composed chiefly of Italians, the blacks only worked on basswood this year, the "yellow fellows" sticking to the clover.

General Manager T. G. Newman, in the American Bee Journal, reports another victory before the courts of California, for the National Bee-Keepers' Union. It was another "bees a nuisance" case, which investigation failed to justify. Some people will learn, some day, that bees and bee-keepers have some rights on earth.

Editor Hutchinson, of the Review, has been going the rounds of the state fairs "out west" with his honey exhibits, and the "firsts" and "seconds" which he has gathered in, foot up a snug sum of money. The chief benefit arising from such public exhibitions, however, is its educational effect, a benefit in which every bee-keeper in the land shares indirectly.

It would seem, according to Mr. Whitcomb's climatic theory, that, whatever may be said of the depraved appetite and correspondingly crude diet of the Esquimaux, these primitive brethren of the far North have an advantage over us in the matter of superior quality and flavor of honey that may be approximated by the intervening distance. The farther north the better the flavor.

The California Bee-Keepers' Exchange has now on hand orders for more than 600 tons of honey for export. Owing to the failure of the honey crop this season in Southern California it seems now to be a question just how to hold the European demand which the Exchange has created. There will always be a demand for sage honey where it has once been introuduced; but the market developed for cheaper grades from the Pacific coast may find substitutes in abundance.

In the engraving accompanying Mr. Jolley's interesting article on the development of greater honey resources, presented in this number, is shown a Pennsylvania pasture-field literally carpeted with white clover, and a second-growth linden in full bloom; a branch of which, with clover entwined, constitute the background. The peculiar delicate fragrance of the linden bloom, coupled with the profusion of white clover at the same time, forcibly suggested the inscription, "Every scent of summer tide,"—Flowery pastures all glow, from Jean Ingelow's inspiring poem, A Lily and a Lute. The subject selected by Mr. Jolley is one of great interest and importance, especially to bee-keepers of the North, and the matter deserves consideration accordingly.

An accumulation of other matter just now, we deem of greater interest, so that the Cuban reminiscences and Florida notes are temporarily discontinued. It is not improbable, however, that something more up-to-date may be given in this line before the lapse of many months. Public interest seems to be quite generally centred upon Cuba, and "The Wanderings of Hill with Camera and Quill," is a future possibility.

Bee-keeping methods in Japan, as they existed twenty-five years ago, are illustrated in colors by J. Ikeda & Co., of Tokyo, in a chart 7x20 inches, a copy of which is just at hand, accompanied by a written explanatory key and a very kind invitation to the editor to visit the author at his Japanese home, for all of which we hereby extend assurance of our gratitude. We shall try to have a small reproduction of the picture prepared for publication in The Bee-Keeper.

Jude Grabbe, of the Illinois state fair, we learn through the American Bee Journal, suggests, among other "excellent" changes in the premium list, that in the future premiums on exhibitions of black bees shall be omitted. The reason stated is that "the breeding of the blacks should be discouraged rather than encouraged." This begins to look like the beginning of a race war, which may develop into an effort to have the dusky fellows transported to Liberia.

RELATING TO SOUTHERN HONEY.

Following the reading of Mr. Poppleton's paper before the Omaha convention, as published in this number, came quite a lengthy discussion regarding the probable effect upon the American honey market of future competition with Cuba, and incidentally as to the relative quality of varieties of honey. The comments of some of the participants carried with them such a gross injustice to a certain important division of the fraternity that The Bee-Keeper, in calling attention thereto, deems an apology unnecessary.

We were not a little surprised, in reading the American Bee Journal's report of the convention, to find these words attributed to E. R. Root: "Southern honey has a strong flavor which is liked by some."

It is to be regretted, in the face of repeated protests, offered in the name of common justice, that men of influence and authority should not be more guarded in their public statements. We are sure that no one acquainted with Mr. Root or his writings would for a moment attribute to him a thought of willful misrepresentation. We believe him utterly incapable of studied deception, a fact that makes the matter all the more serious. Were it not for the universal regard in which he is held as an authority upon all matters relating to our pursuit. The Bee-Keeper would feel less urgently the duty to protest in behalf of its southern constituents.

We might say, "Northern honey is strong," "Western honey is not good." "Honey from New York or Ohio has a rank smell and is dark and pungent;" all of which, though true, would be misleading and unjust to the producer of the North, West, New York or Ohio, but not more so, we believe, than Mr. Root's assertion that "Southern honey has a strong flavor." The absurdity of the expression would not be effected perceptibly by inverted syntax, thus: "Strong-flavored honey, which some like, is Southern." Red apples are sour. Sour apples are red. Cross bees are yellow. Yellow bees are cross; and so one might continue ad infinitum. Each statement is true, but taken separately impart a false idea, just as the statement, "Southern honey has a strong flavor," will surely do.

Every well-informed bee-keeper is aware that there is an inferior grade of honey known to the trade as "Southern." This product comes from a class of small bee-keepers throughout the South, to whom modern methods of apiculture are comparatively unknown. Yet, to the serious detriment of the progressive Southern apiarist, whose knowledge, facilities and product are in every way the equal of those found farther north, his goods are persistently, or thoughtlessly characterized as "Southern;" when, in reality, Southern honey includes a variety as great, and as widely different as "Northern honey." One is equally as specific as the other.

We had hoped after the formal recognition of this existing evil, and its efforts to right the wrong, by the North American Bee-Keepers' Assocataion, in convention at Columbus, O., in 1888, that there would be no cause for further complaint in this respect; and it is therefore almost discouraging, after a lapse of ten years, to have the same error heralded to the world from the platform of America's leading bee-keepers' society. It is a duty which the progressive producers of honey in the South owe themselves and posterity, to strenuously oppose the indiscriminate reference to Southern honey as an inferior article.

Following his son in discussion at the convention, Mr. A. I. Root, in part, said: "Most localities yield both good and poor honey." Now there is the essence of wisdom; the truth of the whole matter in eight short words. We had the pleasure of meeting the elder Mr. Root some years since, in the heart of the great mangrove belt of Florida, from which the bee-keepers of that locality were then shipping their season's crop of something over two hundred tons of honey; so that Mr. Root had ample opportunity to test the quality of Southern honey which is produced in that section, and his remarks were based upon personal observations. In this case, we feel sure he found Southern honey to possess no "strong flavor," or other inferior qualities.

Here is another comment along the same line, by President-elect Whitcomb, of the U. S. B. K. U.: "Climate has much to do with the flavor of honey; a warm climate producing that of inferior quality, and a colder climate producing honey of a much better flavor."

As this statement stands in the public convention report, as a positive assertion reputed to Mr. Whitcomb, he doubtless has evidence in support of the claim, which would be most interesting reading. The affirmation, if true, is capable of being demonstrated. It is founded upon one of two things, fact or fancy. The object of this reference to the matter is not to refute the claim, but, rather, to determine which label shall be applied. If it is a truth that the quality of honey is governed, and is in proportion to the mean temperature of the climate under which it is secreted, it is not to soon to establish it as such in the archives of beedom.

We believe that the honey produced between the 20th and 35th parallels in America will compare favorably with that taken between the 35th and 50th. Our opinion, however, like Mr. Whitcomb's assertion, has no influence upon existing facts. Conditions are in no way effected by either. In this connection it is a noteworthy fact that in naming the three choicest varieties of

American honey, by Mr. Muth, he included two which are produced in the South—in our hottest climates.

In order to facilitate an earlier dissemination of light, The Bee-Keeper respectfully suggests that Mr. Whitcomb tell us through its columns, specifically in what way alfalfa honey produced in Colorado and Nebraska is superior to that obtained in the San Bernardino, Salt River and Pecos valleys.

Honey Production in Our New West Indian Possessions.

[Read before the U. S. B. K. U. Convention, at Omaha, Neb.

The coming Americanization of Cuba and Porto Rico presents many interesting problems to us as a people. This is especially true with bee-keepers. With some because of a contemplated removal to one of these islands, and to all because of the inevitable effect on our business.

It is possible my two years' experience in Cuba enables me to give some idea of the good and bad features to be found there, but I understand better than almost anyone else can that the subject can only be skimmed in an essay like this.

Cuba is without doubt one of the finest honey countries in the world. I consider it as fully the equal of California, and in some respects superior. Should Cuba be annexed to the United States, thus not only doing away with all duties on honey shipped to this country, and duties on hives and implements from this country, but in time improve facilities for transportation all over the island itself, it will, I think, affect the honey market of this country far more than the great crops from California have yet done. It is well for us to look these facts square in the face.

At present there is in Cuba an export duty of 6 cents and an American import duty of 20 cents per gallon, over 2 cents per pound on honey from there. These duties and the wretched government of the island itself are what has kept our markets from being flooded with Cuban honey.

Remove these two conditions and the result is plain. There are but few movable comb apiaries in Cuba; so far as I know, less than a dozen in all, nearly all of them managed, if not owned, by Americans. It is exceedingly difficult to get reliable statistics of the amount of honey annually produced at these apiaries, but from such facts and figures as I did get while there, and since, I judge that any well managed apiary of 300 or more colonies is safe for a yield of from 40,000 to 70,000 pounds of honey each season. As there are chances for locating such apiaries all over the island, it can be easily seen what an enormous harvest can be obtained.

One great advantage Cuba has over any other place I know of, is that an entire failure to secure a fair crop is almost if not quite unknown. As well as I can learn the poorest crop will be fully as much as 50 per cent. of the largest crops. All bee-keepers can fully understand the advantage of these conditions.

The principal disadvantages are the duties already mentioned and the bad roads, making it so costly and difficult getting honey to a shipping port. This last difficulty is so great that many owners of bee-gum apiaries in the interior of the island, so I have been repeatedly informed, practice saving the wax only, for sale, pouring large amounts of honey on the ground to waste.

While there are scores of trees and plants yielding some honey, the great bulk of the crop comes from a plant, or rather a vine, known to American readers of our bee journals as bellflower or campanea. Its Cuban name is aguinaldo, (literally, "a Christmas present," so called because of its being in full bloom at Christmas time). Scientifically it is a convolvulus (not a campanula as was figured in one of our periodicals several years ago), genus, ipomoea; species, sidaefolia. The few species of the genus found in the States are the morning glories, only one of which, ipomoea batatas (sweet potato) is of material value to the human race.

All the species of the genus I know of are vines with heart-shaped leaves and bell-shaped flowers, the one which furnishes so much honey in the West India islands being the most profuse bloomer of them all. At times the bloom is so abundant that hedges and stone fences look like snow banks from a distance. It commences to bloom late in November, continuing until late in February, January being the month of greatest bloom, with December a close second. The quality of its honey is good; color, white, with good body and rather mild and pleasant flavor. It is the equal of white clover honey in color and body, and in flavor I would rank it as next to that best of all honeys. Other plants and trees furnish some honey, but the royal palm is of the most value, I think, not because it gives any surplus honey, but because it yields every day in the year and seems to be the only source of honey from May to September. Many colonies unless fed will starve to death during the summer, and many more would but for this tree. Large apiaries have been the rule in Cuba, all moveable comb apiaries I know of having 300 to 600 colonies in one locality. I think this is a mistake, but had no chance to learn whether smaller apiaries would do better.

I think it will readily be seen from what I have said that the main points one needs to look well to when deciding on a location in those islands are, first, a locality with plenty of aguinaldo and royal palm; second, nearness to a port from which honey may be shipped to a market, and third, very close proximity to a railroad or a good macadamized road leading to a port. While there are other desirable conditions that should be secured in a location if possible, these three I have given are the most important.

My personal experience was in the country a few miles west of Havana, but as well as I can learn, conditions are very similar in the other parts of Cuba, and also in Porto Rico.

I have not attempted to go into details of bee-keeping in Cuba, as it would be useless to attempt it in a paper like this. Many of the details it would be well for anyone who expects to go there to know can be found on page 539 of Gleanings for 1889.

O. O. POPPLETON.

Advanced Methods of Comb Honey Production.

[Read before the U. S. B. K. U. Convention at Omaha, Neb.]

The subject assigned me by your worthy secretary is an important one.

The greatest difficulty in dealing with it consists in the large number of supposed-to-be superior systems and everyone wedded to his own. But for all that the advancement recently made in the fine art of taking comb honey is marvelous indeed, and I often admire men and methods. Presuming the object your secretary had in view was that this paper shall be helpful rather than a delineation of many and conflicting methods, I shall in the main confine myself to my own system, believing it to be the best.

First of all, quality and reputation must be maintained, even if necessary at the expense of quantity. The foundation must be faultless. The filling of the brood chamber at the approach of the clover flow or main crop with sugar syrup I regard as a most pernicious practice.

I state this with due respect for the views of others. Later on I will give a better way. May I digress long enough to state that the statutes of Canada, when any such syrup reaches the supers and it is offered for sale, make such practice a willful adulteration and the government at its own charges will do the prosecuting.

It is no digression to state that perfect wintering is a mighty factor in the production of comb honey.

It is not enough to bring ninety-five or even one hundred per cent. of our stocks through the winter alive. We should see to it that they are practically in the same condition that they were at the approach of winter, with plenty of stores, healthy and strong, and able to rush out and catch the first and every honey flow coming within reach. And then the spring management must be such that the brood chamber at the time of giving section supers is practically full of brood from side to side and from front to rear.

Briefly, then, to this and brood-spreading, timely and judiciously, with some uncapping, must be practiced.

And now for the better way: When the spring flow sets in sharply, in order to leave the whole brood chamber to the queen and to provide against the practice of feeding sugar syrup, extracting supers must be given. These with their contents are left on to keep up brood rearing until clover yields freely. These supers are then removed and comb honey supers take their place. Generally at this time, if the work has been well done, the brood chamber will be practically full of brood, which will be of far greater value than sugar syrup and it costs nothing and your comb honey will be pure and your reputation unsullied.

With this management neither bait combs, half supers nor double brood chamber will be wanted. The bees will go up for standing room and go to work with a right good will.

I must not forget to state that at the time of changing supers the combs containing the most and youngest brood should be placed next the side of the brood chamber. This will make more room for the queen, retard swarming and force the honey into the sections; then when swarms do issue their numerical strength will gladden your weary hearts and cause you to rejoice in hope of a rich reward.

The large entrance has become an indispensable necessity in my practice, For that purpose I use the wedges so often referred to, and the dividers for creating a double bee space at the outside of the section is also indispensable. The former distribute the bees and the latter hold them just where wanted, so much so sometimes the outside and rear sections actually get ahead of those near the entrance, but that is not the rule.

The habit of the young bees meeting the field bees above the entrance near the centre is so strong that a cluster is sometimes formed and the field bees continue to go up at the centre, but a little cool weather will usually break that up and a proper distribution will follow. Hive swarms on starters, in hives contracted to about two-thirds of their size by the use of dummies, let them remain upon the old stands, and at once transfer the supers to the new swarms. A queen bar or excluder must be used; give shade and a lot of top ventilation, which should be closed the fourth or fifth day in the cool of the evening. We may yet learn how to continue top ventilation with profit.

What seems to me to be the most difficult thing is to give the right amount of super room. I would say, be careful to give enough and be just as careful not to give too much. But what is enough and what's too much, how should we know? Well, I reckon from existing conditions and prospects. Years of careful observation will guide us pretty well.

Want of space forbids giving many useful pointers. My experience with deep cell foundation, fence separators and plane sections is too limited to be of value, but whatever changes we do make I do hope we will not depart from the standard 4¼x4¼ sections. The cost will be too great for an imaginary gain.

NOTES.

(1). Foundation should touch the sides of the sections and come to within one-sixth of an inch of the bottom bar.

(2). I have used thousands of bottom starters and fail to find much benefit from them. But I have learned this, that if they overlap one-fourth of an inch or so no harm will result; the bees will cut them to fit and unite them all right.

(3). If holes are found in the septum of foundation the bees lose time and add too much wax in mending.

(4). Feeding back on account of granulating should be discouraged.

S. T. PETTIT.
Belmont, Ont., Canada.

Range of Honey Bees.

The range of the honey bee is but little understood by the masses, many supposing that bees go for miles in quest of nectar, while others think that they go only a short distance. It may be curious to many to understand how any one can tell how far the bee may fly, but this is simple when understood. Years ago, when the Italian bees were first introduced in the United States, these bees, having marks different to the common bees already here, were easily distinguished, and after any bee-keeper had obtained the Italian bees they could be observed and their range easily noticed. If bloom is plentiful close where bees are located, they will not go very far, perhaps a mile in range, but if bloom is scarce they may go five miles. Usually about three miles is as far as they may go profitably.

Bees have been known to go as far as eight miles in a straight line, crossing a body of water that distance to land. It is wonderful how the little honey bee can go so far from its home and ever find its way back to its own particular hive. If, while the little bee is out of its home, or hive, the hive should be removed some ten or twenty feet, according to the surroundings, when it came back to where its home was first located it would be hopelessly lost. If its home was in an open space, with no other objects close, it might find its way home, but, even should the hive be moved only a few feet, many of the bees would get lost.

So to move a hive, if done in the winter time, it would be all right; but if in the summer time it should be done after dark, or when the bees are not flying, and even then the bees should be stirred up some, and smoke blown in at the hive entrance and a board or some object placed in front of the hive, so that the bees in coming out may mark their new location. Bees, no doubt, are guided by sight and also by sense of smell. They are attracted by the color of bloom, as, if they are at work on a certain kind of bloom, they are not likely to leave that particular kind of bloom for any other as long as they can find that kind. Again, bees are often attracted to sweets by their sense of smell, for they will go after sweets, even if in the dark, if close. However, any kind of sweets may be placed in glass in plain sight, but if covered so as not to emit any smell, the bees will take no notice of it.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"The year, throughout the United States, excepting Colorado, Florida, Vermont, Michigan and Northern California, has been a most signal failure."—Gleanings.

One more number will complete the eighth volume of The American Bee-Keeper.

The past season has been a good one for the bee-keepers of Canada.

Some of our large producers have learned by experience that it is not good business policy to separate the grades of comb honey commonly designated as "fancy" and "No. 1." The point claimed in favor of crating both together is that the usual higher price of the "fancy" article may as well be secured for "No. 1," which is really in no way inferior. The editor of the Bee-Keepers' Review refers approvingly to the matter.

Describing the method of M. F. Chatelain for stopping a case of robbing, Dr. Miller, in Gleanings, wrote: "Smoke the hive of the robbers; in two or three minutes close the entrance; wait till the returning bees crowd outside; open enough to insert smoker-nozzle and smoke; open entrance wide and let all go in; then smoke like sixty till bees rush out of hive." A French bee-paper in publishing the item in that language, rendered the closing sentence thus: "Then smoke till about sixty bees rush out of the hive."

Regarding the general consensus of opinion and points brought out relative to Cuban honey at the Omaha convention, as a result of Mr. Poppleton's essay, Gleanings for Oct. 15 has an editorial, from one paragraph of which the following is noted, in substance: "That honey coming from Cuba is insipid; that honey coming from Cuba has a rank flavor; that campanilla honey, which comes from Cuba, has a very fine flavor." The editor of this paper has sought in vain to harmonize this information, and has finally decided to pay for one year's subscription to The Bee-Keeper for the first person who may send in a comprehensible explanation. In the meantime, we shall think that some of those "opinions" were not founded upon knowledge of the subject.

White Clover.

My little maiden came to me,
Her small hands brimming over,
Not with the garden's choicest flowers,
But only sweet, white clover.

I took her gift, the while my thought
The long years traveled over—
When I, like her, with busy hands
Made wreaths of sweet, white clover.

I dream my childish dreams again,
In fairy land a rover,
A magic garland, this, I ween,
Though only sweet, white clover.

Yet much of life's best sweetness we
In homely things discover,
As honey-bees pass gaudy flowers,
To seek the low, white clover.

Mrs. L. B. Fleming in American Bee Journal.

LITERARY NOTES.

"Our Southern Home," of Mount Holly, N. C., devoted to the interests of that state, is a new exchange upon our list.

GIRLS LIVING IN COUNTRY TOWNS.

In the October Ladies' Home Journal Edward Bok devotes much of his editorial page to showing country girls and women the way to make their lives mean more—how they can partake more fully of the true enjoyments of life. He has prescribed a method of country living which can readily and profitably be pursued, and which will go far toward the emancipation of the country woman from much of the drudgery, and lighten the isolation of farm life.

MARY ANDERSON'S LITTLE BOY.

Mary Anderson, who is now Mrs. de Narvarro, and lives in England, has allowed herself, her new English home, and her 2-year-old baby to be photographed for the first time for publication. Some twenty pictures have been made, and the best of these will appear in an early issue of The Ladies' Home Journal. The baby's picture is, of course, the central one of interest.

Earlier accounts of a general shortage in the honey crop of the country are confirmed by later reports. Florida, it appears, is ahead of other states in the matter of a honey crop for 1898.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

DETROIT, MICH., Sept. 8, 1898.—There is light supply of honey on our market at present, with good demand at 10@11c. for comb, and 5@6c. for extracted. Demand for beeswax is slow, with fair supply. Prices 25@26c.

M. H. HUNT,
Bell Branch, Mich.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 9.—Honey in good demand with fair supply. We quote our market to-day, comb, 8 @ 13c. Extracted, 5 @ 7. Beeswax is in good demand with very light supply, selling at 26 to 28c.

A. B. WILLIAMS & CO.,
80-82 Broadway.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 7, 1898.—Fancy white clover brings 13c., with best grades white comb 12c.: off grades with more or less empty cells, 10@11c.: amber, 8@9c., according to grade with fancy at 10c.: extracted white, 6@7c.; amber, 5@6c.: dark, 4½@5c. Beeswax, 26@27c.

R. A. BURNET & CO.
163 S. Water, St.

ALBANY, N. Y. Sept. 12, 1898—Honey in good demand now and receipts light. The earlier you ship now the better prices will get. White Comb, 12@13c.; mixed, 11@12c.: dark, 9@10c.; extracted light, 6@6½c.: mixed, 5½@6c. ; dark 5c.

H. R. WRIGHT.

KANSAS CITY, MO., Sept. 7, 1898.—Good demand for honey. Good supply. We quote white comb, 12½ @ 14c. Extracted, 5 @ 6½c.

HAMBLIN & BEARSS,
514 Walnut Street.

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 16, 1898.—The fall demand for honey is now opening and from present indications we look for good prices right through the season. We quote our market as follows: Fancy White, in Cartons, 14c; A No. 1, White, 12½ @13c.: No. 1, White, 11@12c.: No. 2, 10@12c. California extracted is practically out of the market. Flordia in barrels is selling for 6@7c. according to quality. Beeswax 26@27c. per lb. Very light. Stock, only fair demand.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE,
57 Chatham Street.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Sept. 26, 1898.—Receipts of new crop comb honey have been heavy the past week: quality averages better than last season, with good demand. We quote our market as follows:—Fancy white, 14c.: No. 1 white, 12c.: No. 2 white, 11c.; Buckwheat, 8½@10c. Market in good shape for extracted honey. We quote as follows—White clover and basswood, 6@6½c.: amber, 5¼@5¾c.: "Jouthern," in barrels, 54@60c. per gallon, according to quality. Beeswax, dull, at 25½@26½c Write us for shipping directions.

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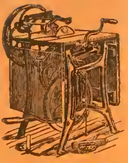

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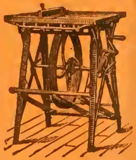

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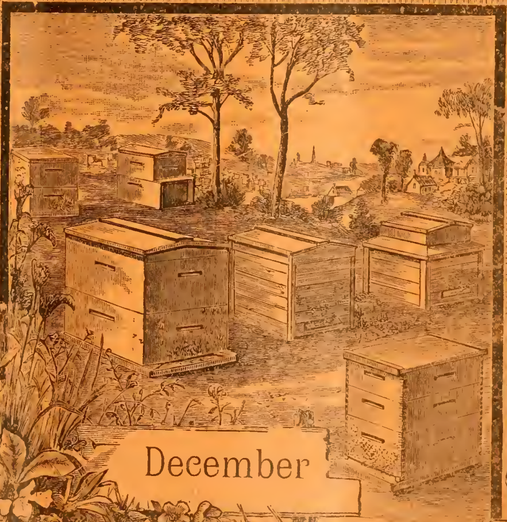

December

1898.

VOL. VIII. No. 12

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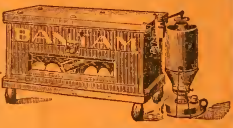

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I would have no difficulty whatever in getting twice 1,000 new subscribers this year if all the bee-keepers in this country had read the Review the past year. I have sometimes thought it *might* pay a publisher to give away his journal one year, simply for the sake of getting it into new hands. There are, of course, decided objections to such a course, but I am going to come as near to it as I dare. Here is my offer:

If you are not a subscriber to the Review, send me $1.00 and I will send you twelve back numbers, the Review the rest of this year, and all of next year.

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Most people subscribe for a journal at the beginning of the year. In this case there is no use of waiting, as you will get the Review for next year just the same as though you waited until next January to subscribe; and you will get the rest of the numbers for this year, *free*. The sooner you subscribe, the more free issues you will receive.

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W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

Published Monthly by the W. T. Falconer Manfg Co.

Vol. VIII. DECEMBER, 1898. No. 12.

Uniting Small Colonies.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes me to tell the readers of The American Bee-Keeper how I unite bees by the box plan, which I spoke of in an article some time ago, and which I have used for years with success.

Previous to my using the plan about to be described, my worst trouble had been that by all of the ordinary modes of uniting bees, too many of them would return to the old location, thereby causing quite a loss of bees, while with the box plan no such loss will occur, providing the bees are caused to fill themselves with honey, as does a swarm before it issues from the parent colony. Also in uniting in this way, whether the colonies have so few bees that we think they will winter better from a doubling of their numbers, or whether stronger colonies have an insufficient amount of stores for wintering separately, the bees never quarrel, no matter whether it is a time of scarcity or of plenty, regarding the honey secretion.

I first make a box without sides, large enough to hold the desired quantity of bees. For two or three small colonies this box should hold about twelve quarts, while for uniting larger colonies it should hold at least twenty quarts, as the bees must not be so crowded that a lack of ventilation is caused. This box is to have each side covered with wire-cloth, one of which is nailed permanently to the box, and the other is to be made removable by tacking the wire-cloth to a light frame which can be easily put on and taken off of the box. In the top of the box a suitable hole is cut, into which a large funnel can be inserted, such as is used in putting up bees by the pound, and which can be instantly covered with a slide or wide button when the funnel is removed, after the bees are in.

Having all in readiness, proceed to the colonies which are to be united and blow a little smoke into the entrance of the first, after which give the hive several smart raps or blows upon its top with the doubled-up hand, when you will proceed to the next and treat that in the same way, and the third and fourth also, if you intend to put that many into one colony. This is done so as to cause all of the bees to fill themselves with honey, for unless thoroughly filled some will return. In about five minutes from the time the first one was smoked all of the bees will be filled, if we have gone to one and the others right along, smoking and rapping on them; when we proceed to open the first hive and shake the bees into the funnel, down through which they will go into the box. If I have not previously disposed of the queen, I catch and cage her when I find her. In this way the bees are shaken from all the combs into the box. When well filled with honey, even the closest sticking Italians are quite easily shaken off the combs.

Right here I will tell how to shake bees off combs, as many seem to be unable to get the bees off, short of brushing. The bee braces itself only against falling off the comb downward, for the thought that it is possible to fall upward off the comb never seems to enter its head, so it holds tenaciously only from the upper side. Taking advantage of this fact, I take the projections of the top bar to the frame and place them on the two middle fingers of each hand, letting the frame hang on them, as it were. Now raise the frame up quickly by raising the hands six inches or more, and then with a quick motion strike down. This quick downward motion causes the ends of the frame to jump from the ends of the fingers and strike the ball of the hand, thus giving the comb a sudden jar with a downward motion at the same time, while the impetus of the bees is still upward. This takes them all unawares and thus dislodges them from the comb, while any quantity of downward shakes would loosen but few of them. In this way I can clear a comb entirely of bees by giving it three or four such jars. But to return:

As soon as all of the bees from the first hive are in the box I proceed to the second, and shake them into the box with the first, and in the same manner, and thus keep on till all are in the box which I have decided are to go into one colony. I now proceed to select the queen I wish for them, and when I have done so I place a stopper in the cage having a hole in it filled with the "Good" or queen candy, such as is used in shipping queens in the mails.

I see I have forgotten something, and that is to say, that while not actually shaking bees in the funnel I keep a cloth in it, which prevents any of the bees from crawling or flying out. To remove the funnel I set the cage or box down suddenly, which causes the bees to all go to the bottom of the box in a heap, when the funnel is removed and the hole covered. I now thoroughly mix the bees by tumbling them from one side of the box to the other, when the box is again set down suddenly, and while the bees are at the bottom the caged queen is slipped through the hole and the cage suspended near the top of the box by means of a wire attached to the cage and hooked over the top of the outside of the box. As soon as the bees can crawl to the top they cluster about the queen, hanging to the cage and the top of the box, and while thus hanging eat out the candy in the stopper, and if you have gauged the amount of candy in it right, she will be set at liberty in from four to six hours, when the bees will receive her kindly, and thus you have the selected queen successfully introduced.

As soon as the queen is in, the box is set in the cellar or some cool dark place and left. If the caging is done in the forenoon the box is not disturbed till about sunset, while if the caging is done in the afternoon the bees are left in the box until early the next morning. At sunset or early morning, as the case may be, a hive is placed where I wish the united colony to stay, and prepared with enough frames of sealed stores for the bees to winter on, selecting the richest combs from the whole lot from which the bees have been shaken. While the hive is thus prepared the box of bees is brought from the cellar, the removable wire-cloth side taken off and the bees emptied out in front of the entrance and hived, just as a natural swarm is hived. In this way all are united peaceably, the selected queen safely introduced, the hive fixed in complete winter trim, with no bees to bother while selecting the richest combs in honey, etc., and best of all, no loss of bees by returning, for when thus shaken together and filled with honey, each bee marks its location anew, the same as do bees in natural swarming, and you have a sure thing with no guesswork about the matter. And if you do not wish to unite again in some years, it is no waste of time in making a box and funnel, for these are very convenient to use quite often in introducing valuable queens, etc. We can also pick up bees in this way from different locations until we get such a sized swarm as we deem best, then make one of them by giving them a queen.

I have often put a lot of bees together in this way from colonies which insisted in swarming during the honey harvest, thus stopping the swarming mania and securing a big yield of section honey from the colony formed and also a good yield from those from which the bees were taken, while neither would have done little else than swarm during the honey flow, had we allowed them to swarm or tried to keep all together in their hives.

Borodino, N. Y.

My Bee-keeping Experience.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY C. E. PALMER.

MY acquaintance with the honey bee commenced a few years ago with a colony in a single-walled hive and movable frames. As the purchase was made in the winter, I did not attempt to discover their true condition, but long before spring the bees died for want of stores. The cause, as I found out afterward, was the too free use of the extractor. This sudden loss was a little more than I had bargained for, but being more than anxious to try again, I secured another colony in the spring. This one did fairly well (so I thought at the time), for at the close of the season I had my two hives full of bees and some surplus honey.

C. E. Palmer and his Apiary, Ransomville, N. Y.

I now attempted to winter these two hives without any extra protection, with the result that I lost one colony entirely; the other wintered well.

Although this was not very encouraging, I was not yet willing to quit, so

I started off the first fine day for more bees. The colony I bought on this trip was in an old-fashioned box-hive, and what to do with it I hardly knew at this time, but soon decided and acted as follows: When clover commenced to bloom I took a hammer and chisel, removed the entire top and fitted in its place a simplicity body, filled with frames and full sheets of foundation. The bees soon took possession of this upper story, and when the queen commenced to lay and brood in all stages appeared, I took the frames with adhering bees and placed them in a chaff hive, moving the old hive to a new location, thus doing the transferring and swarming at the same time.

From this time up to the present I have had varying success, owing largely, I think, to the chaff hive. Last winter I lost one out of 28. Winter before last I lost none and from the 13 colonies I then had, took one-half ton of comb honey and increased to 28, as before mentioned. This season I have taken one ton of comb, and some extracted honey and increased to 53.

According to some writers, I should close here. But a few nights ago I had an entirely (to me) new experience. For the first time, I have to report a loss of bees by theft. Two persons carried off one of my best colonies, in "Falcon hive." The hive was new and painted white. I had transferred the bees to said hive but a few days before and chaffed them down for their winter nap.

And now, in closing, I desire to say to all beginners, do not attempt to winter bees in other than chaff hives, and your success, other things being equal, will be assured.

Ransomville, N. Y.

E. H. Moate, in Bee-Keepers' Record, says bees in Ireland gather large quantities of pollen from ivy bloom all through the winter, when weather is favorable.

LOW PRICES.

Another Subscriber's Opinion as to the Cause.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY M. W. SHEPHERD.

THE wail comes from all parts of the country that the honey crop is short and yet the price is away down, and the question is asked, "What can be done to advance the price?" Some say hold on to the crop, and others say sell on your home market. I do not think holding back the crop will very materially advance the price, while if we sell on the home market we can get no more than people can afford to give. Now, there is a reason for low prices, and low prices do not affect honey alone, for we hear complaints of low prices on wheat, oats, corn and many other articles of daily use, and why should this be so, is a question easier asked than answered. Let us examine the case a little and see if we will not find some reasons at least. Who is it that consumes the most of our honey, the laboring classes or the millionaires? We at once say it is the laboring classes. What is the usual wage received by the laboring classes? We must admit it is very low, and after all the expenses that must be met are paid, there is nothing left to buy luxuries with, and we must admit that honey is a luxury, and one that can be dispensed with. The usual wages in this part of the world is 75 cents per day and the wage-earners board themselves. After paying for the staple articles of life there is nothing left. It is very reasonable to say that when a man has nothing, you can get nothing.

Good, pure cane syrup sells for 30 cents per gallon, or less than three cents per pound, and it takes the place of a more expensive sweet. A good, heavy syrup can be made of granulated sugar at a cost of not more than five cents per pound, and we must admit it is pure and wholesome, and the materials for making it can be found in nearly every home where they are able to buy honey. Again, there has been so much glucose sold for honey that the people are suspicious when you go to peddling honey, and if they buy at all the price must be low. Then another phase of the question comes up in this shape: Can you afford to sell pure honey for the low prices at which it is found upon the market? The consumer has, at least, some grounds for his doubts. And now, let us "face the music" and say that we must produce our honey and put it on the market at a price that will compete with the cheaper sweets, or we must go out of the business. This seems to me to be the whole story in a nutshell.

Honey must be produced at a minimum price and supplies must be bought at the very lowest prices. Supply dealers will kick, no doubt, on lowering their prices, but it must be done or honey cannot be produced and put within reach of the masses.

Mannville, Fla.

[It is not our purpose, generally, to supplement the remarks of our contributors with editorial comment; but, as in this instance, it seems sometimes necessary to disregard preferences, for, inasmuch as the subject is one of general interest, expressions of opinion have been invited and are, therefore, given place in these columns. Mr. Shepherd starts out to analyze the subject on broad lines, which would naturally lead the reader to anticipate an exhaustive discussion of the matter with proportionately radical measures to overcome the evil. But, instead, he narrows down to a recommendation that the burden be transferred to the already-laden shoulders of the supply manufacturer, without even a suggestion as to a possible means of securing better prices. It is every man's privilege to manufacture his own supplies if he so desires. Bee-keepers have two things in particular for which to be thankful: First, that nothing really essential in the supply line is patented, and, secondly, that the manufacturers of bee-keepers' supplies in the United States have not followed the example set in nearly every other branch of trade by combining to extort unreasonable prices from the consumer of their products. If any man feels that the present prices charged by our larger manufacturers for the appliances he needs in the apiary are too high, let him emphatically and forever disabuse his mind of the error by making his own supplies one season. We have, like many others, tried the experiment, and the wonder now is that they are able to provide us with such an excellent line of goods at so low a price. If the bee-keeper must have cheaper foundation it will be necessary only for him to reduce the price of wax and the manufactured article will decline in proportion. If the existence of our industry can be sustained only through a reduction in the price of supplies of the present standard of excellence, its days are numbered.—Ed.]

The Season's Honey Flow.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY M. F. REEVE,

AT the first of the autumn meetings of the Philadelphia Bee-Keepers' association, held recently at Mark Schofield's apiary, on the outskirts of Philadelphia, the common story was of no early honey flow, of bees starving in the late spring because of bad weather, and the lack of nectar in the clover and other bloom when the weather became fair. All admitted that they had had to feed and that it was the middle of July before the bees began bringing in nectar. The summer and autumn flow made up, however, for the spring lack, and the hives of all were said to be heavy, providing for the winter stores and yielding surplus to the bee-keeper.

One member who has over 100 colonies had extracted over 1,000 pounds of honey and some of his hives had two and three stories on. The only partly filled frames were those which had been added recently, and on these the bees were still at work, and he expected all would be filled clear up before frost nipped the asters, golden-rod and smartweed, which were the sources of nectar in this vicinity. He reported having had a swarm in September.

There have been several frosts since the meeting took place, a particularly heavy "white" one on Oct. 17, with high winds for two days following, which appear to have checked the flight of the bees except during the warmer portions of the day.

I notice quite a diversity in the prices of comb honey exposed for sale in the store windows along one of our principal streets. At one corner, where they handle an enormous amount of it, the placard in the window reads "16 cents a pound" by weight. A half block away another store displays the prices "11 and 12 cents." Two blocks distant, "fine New York state clover honey" is marked "25 cents." Near by another store has a "drive" in "Pennsylvania white clover honey at 16 cents." Five or six doors away is a fourth store, which has a bargain in "clover honey at 20 cents." It seems that "you pays your money and you takes your choice."

Rutledge, Pa.

Trial of Plain Sections.

Written for the American Bee-Keeper.

BY M. L. MAIN.

I WILL give you the result of this season's experience with the plain section and fence separator. The hives used were the W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.'s thin-walled, eight-frame style, mostly single story, but I used a few double story hives of the same kind also, as some claim that bees in two-story hives are not inclined to swarm. Now, I desire to say that the first swarm of the season was from a "double-decker," which had also a super of empty sections on top. The bees were hybrids, good at honey gathering and equally energetic in defending their stores.

While I am well pleased wth the plain section and fence, I do not agree to all the points claimed in their favor. That bees will store a greater amount of honey in plain sections, or that it will be any whiter, I do not think. Under favorable conditions a strong colony will store a full pound of honey in a 4¼x4¼x1⅞ old-style section, while a plain section filled between separators, spaced exactly the same, will weigh but fourteen ounces.

I find less propolis in the supers where plain sections are used, and they are easier cleaned than are those having insets. A super of plain sections will be filled and completed more uniformly than old-style sections. Hence there will be a greater number that will grade "fancy." The honey in outside rows will be more securely attached to the section, and, while they all have the appearance of being fuller, they will, as stated above, fall short in weight, a fact not easily accounted for.

Grand Valley, Pa.

Clouds and Sunshine.

BY M. B. GLEASON.

In their onward progress gliding,
Come and go successive years,
Freighted with the joys and sorrows
That beget our smiles and tears.

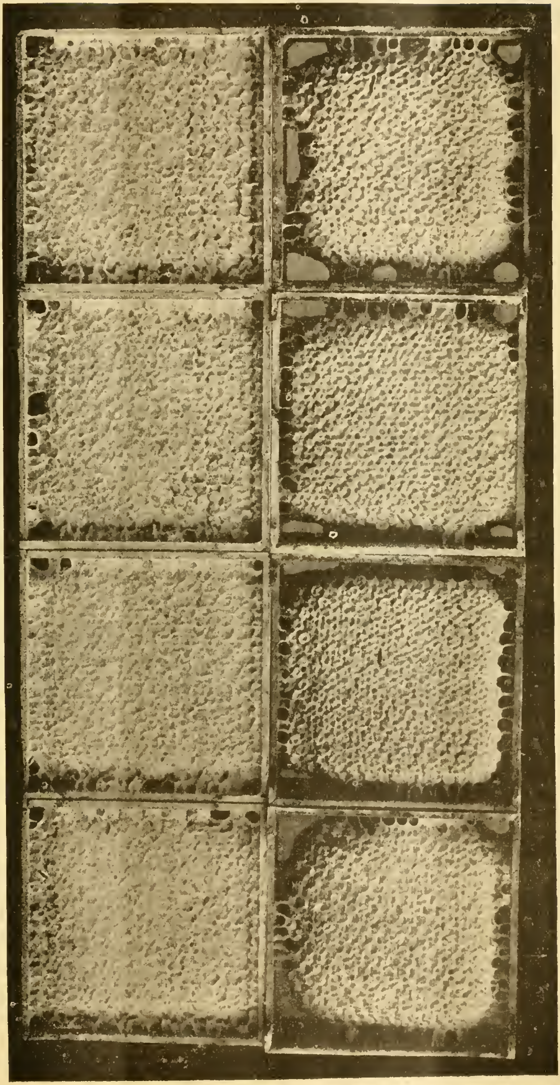
Borne on rapid, tireless pinions,
Sweep they down through boundless space,
Leaving now a belt of sunshine
And anon a darkened place.

Light has ever foil of shadow,
So does pleasure mate with pain,
And our joy is twin to sadness,
But our loss is linked with gain.

Life's most patient, helpful lessons
Are with wise, unerring care,
Given through trials that beset us,
Or in burdens that we bear.

—*Our Rest.*

No farm is complete in its stock department without a few colonies of bees.



"An Object Lesson in Comb-Building."—*From the Bee-Keepers' Review.*

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE W. T. FALCONER MANFG CO.

H. E. HILL, - - - Editor.

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☞A red wrapper on your paper indicates that you owe for your subscription. Please give the matter your early attention.

EDITORIAL.

To each and every reader of The Bee-Keeper a sincere wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year is hereby extended.

Let us not look backward with envy upon the bee-keeper of the past. The honey producer of twelve years ago sold his product at about the same prices as those we are receiving today. If there has been any advancement made in bee-keeping methods, appliances and knowledge in the past twelve years we have, clearly, the advantage to that extent. We. of the present, have these and other substantial advantages. We are well aware that the claim will be not only questioned, but disputed, by some, yet we do not hesitate to say that, at no period of its history has our industry had encouragement in future prospects equal to those now before us.

Delos Wood, in Gleanings, says he thinks queens raised in new combs are apt to be brighter than those reared in dark combs. This he gives as a hint that may be useful in shading queens to our liking.

Bee-keepers throughout the world will learn with sorrow that Miss Helena M., aged 27 years, eldest daughter, and Herbert F., aged 24 years, son of Thos. W. Cowan, editor of the British Bee-Keepers' Record and the British Bee Journal, were among the passengers aboard the ill-fated steamship Mohegan, which went down off the coast of Falmouth, England, Oct. 14.

With this issue The American Bee-Keeper completes its eighth volume. We shall now strive, not only to merit the commendation which our readers have bestowed in the past, but to make The Bee-Keeper for 1899 so interesting and helpful to the bee-keeper that we may be justified in claiming more general support. It is a source of gratification to us to note the additions which have been made to our subscription list each month during the past year; and as this has been accomplished largely through the kind interest which many of our readers have manifested in its behalf, we beg heartily to assure them of our fullest appreciation, and hope to so conduct the paper in the future as to merit a continuance of their esteemed favors.

A point which some ambitious young writers would do well to remember, is that correct spelling and grammar are not nearly so important as a subject. If you have something interesting to write about, tell it as best you can; it is the editor's business to see that it appears properly in print. The object in writing for publication is to say something that will be interesting or helpful to others; not merely to occupy space with an exhibition of faultless diction.

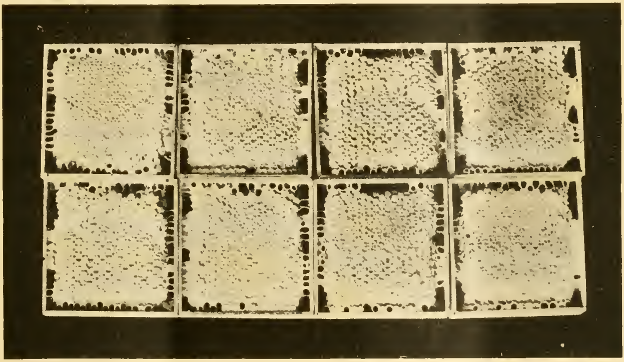
THE PLAIN SECTION.

During the past year or two no one subject has so largely engrossed the attention of our bee-papers as the plain section and slat-separator. The American Bee-Keeper has devoted but little space to the discussion, preferring rather to defer its remarks until the question should become more settled, either for cr against its general adoption, which it was anticipated would be done during the season just past. In this, however, we have all been to some extent disappointed, as the general failure of the honey crop precluded the experimental work projected. Hence, the matter stands, awaiting favorable conditions to make more thorough tests of its merits in the future.

The Bee-Keepers' Review, by whose kind permission we present elsewhere in this number an engraving of four completed sections of each style, and to which illustration editorial reference is made in the March issue of The Bee-Keeper, has given the matter very thorough consideration, and inclines to think well of the new style in many ways, yet wisely cautioning all to try them first in a small way before making expensive changes in their super arrangement.

In presenting the picture, Editor Hutchinson gives it as "an object lesson in comb-building," and says it is a fair representation of such honey as he has seen produced in the two classes of sections.

We have, as yet, had no opportunity of testing the advantages claimed by many for the plain section, though we have seen enough of the product upon the market to justify the conclusion that all plain sections are not as well filled as those which have come before the attention of the Review; and yet, no prettier goods have been seen this year by us than has been shown in plain sections.



Plain Sections, from M. L. Main's Apiary.

The eight plain sections herewith shown were purchased at retail from a local grocer, from whom we obtained the producer's address, Mr. M. L. Main, Grand Valley, Pa. As the honey was as nice as any we had seen, and was, indeed, very tempting, we deferred "sampling" its qualities long enough to arrange it before the camera and to expose a plate; then, upon consulting the subscription list we were pleased to find that Mr. Main was not only a subscriber, but that his Bee-

Keeper wrapper was insured against turning red for a year or so to come; whereupon we sent a copy of the photo to him with a request that he favor our readers with an account of his experience with, and opinion of plain sections, which was promptly granted. Accompanying the article, published in this number of The Bee-Keeper, was the following note:

"Editor Hill:—Regarding the honey sold to Barnsdall & Co., I would say: That in the plain sections was stored by strong, young colonies, made up of two or more swarms, while that in old-style sections was from old colonies, most of which had swarmed; which accounts for the difference. I have some fancy honey in old-style sections quite equal to any in the plain ones.

"Fraternally yours,

"M. L. MAIN."

The American Bee-Keeper is always and emphatically in favor of progression, but progression does not consist in adopting every new idea that is presented. If we are favorably impressed with any new idea, it is well to determine its merits by personal test on a small scale and with due discretion. It is often well to do likewise in cases which do not commend themselves favorably to our judgement.

USING BARRELS FOR HONEY.

The American Bee-Journal has long been emphatic in its condemnation of wooden packages for honey, and in a recent issue expresses surprise that any bee-keeper should persist in using barrels for extracted honey. The chief objections, as seen by the Journal, are that the barrels absorb a large amount of the honey. They are unwieldy to handle, as compared with the sixty-pound can, and the inconvenience of liquifying when the contents become granulated.

In cases where the original package is used to retail from, the latter objection is well founded; but as extracted honey is rarely retailed in bulk, this is really unimportant, as it appears to us. As to the great amount of honey soaked up by the wood, there is no necessity for this loss where barrels are properly prepared, by waxing thoroughly, before filling.

One very good reason why some bee-keepers continue the use of barrels, is that a saving of 25 to 35 per cent. in cost of packages is too important to yield. And a large crop of honey is handled much easier in barrels than in square cases, and the wooden package will not "rust out," as cans are apt to do if kept near the sea coast.

The can has its advantages; but, "the time when barrels will be generally condemned," which the Journal hopes soon to see, we think will not be seen by the present generation.

Do you want a good agricultural journal to visit your home every week during the coming year, and the monthly American Bee-Keeper also, for $1? If so send us the dollar at once and begin with the new year. The Modern Farmer and Busy Bee and The American Bee-Keeper for 1899, both for the price of the former.

QUALITY OF SOUTHERN HONEY.

Gleanings for Nov. 15 replies to our editorial on this subject thus:

"The editor of The American Bee-Keeper protests (and rightly too) against the statement wherein I am made to say in the report of the Omaha convention, that 'Southern honey has a strong flavor which is liked by some.' Of course, there are always chances for inaccuracies in reports; and while the reporter took my rambling remarks with ordinary accuracy, he made me say some things that I did not intend to say. What I actually said, or at least thought I said, was that some Southern honey has a strong flavor.

"In the general discussion, we were talking about the peculiar flavors of different honeys, and why some preferred a kind of honey that another disliked. I mentioned the fact that buckwheat honey in New York is preferred by some to anything else, and that, in a similar way, there are certain flavors in Southern honeys that are liked by some and disliked by others."

The injustice is, then, a result of error or inaccuracy in reporting Mr. Root's statement, which we trust the American Bee Journal will set aright before its readers. Editor Root's explanation is very gratifying, and every Southern apiarist will be glad to know that he did not say, "Southern honey is strong." We hope Mr. Whitcomb can as easily clear up the statement attributed to him, that honey produced in a warm climate is inferior in flavor. Again The Bee-Keeper solicits an explanation.

"The Busy Bee," published by E. T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo., has recently been enlarged to sixteen pages 11x15½ and is now published weekly instead of monthly as formerly, and its contents embrace every branch of general agriculture, whereas bee-keeping was heretofore its exclusive theme. This interesting home paper will hereafter be known as the "Modern Farmer and Busy Bee," and the subscription price is $1 a year. We have perfected arrangements with the publisher whereby we are enabled to offer the Modern Farmer and Busy Bee and The American Bee-Keeper, both for $1 a year if the subscription is sent to us. If you desire to see a sample copy before subscribing, a postal card to the above address is all that is required.

President's Annual Address.

DELIVERED AT THE OMAHA CONVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES BEE-KEEPERS' UNION, SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Fellow Bee-keepers and Friends:

Once more we meet in annual convention; and once more west of the great "Father of Waters." Much of importance has transpired within the short year since last we assembled. Another honey season has come and gone. The year's record can soon be completed. Judging from reports received, in many regions of our country the season has been a very poor one; in a few localities it has been one of abundant yields of honey. In view of this condition, it would seem that the ruling price of honey should be higher than last year. Whether or not it will be, will depend much upon those who have the honey to sell. If like many who rushed their honey to the large city markets last year, the price this year will not be high. But if it is kept out of the large centres as much as possible, and sold more in the local or home markets, there should be no difficulty experienced in securing a good price.

But my address is not intended to be an exhaustive discussion of the proper methods of marketing honey—that may well be left to this convention, the members of which have had much more experience in that line than have I.

If we may judge from the general and almost overwhelming increase in the business of manufacturing bee-keepers' supplies, and the demand for them, this year, there has been an unprecendentedly large growth the past year or two in the industry which we all have the honor to represent. It seems that many of the apiarian manufactories have never had in succession two such large seasons' business as the past two have been This, of itself, indicates a development quite beyond the ordinary expectation. It means, I think, that those who were in the business heretofore have been enlarging their apiaries, and that many new recruits have come into our ranks, to begin the business of honey-production.

On account of the smallness of the bee itself many of our new friends might be led to the conclusion that there is little to be learned concerning its management, and not much financial profit to be obtained. But not so. Some of the wisest men of the centuries gone by have devoted much of their lives to a study of the habits and management of the little, busy bee. The apiarian galaxy of immortals includes the names of Huber the blind, Dzierzon, Quinby and Langstroth, who completed their labors and are now entered into well-merited reward. Of the present time leaders who have gained enviable notoriety may be named Doolittle, Miller, the Dadants, Root and Cook. Of course there are many others almost equally prominent, both of the past and of the present, who might be included did time permit to name them all.

By patient and painstaking investigation much has been discovered in relation to the usefulness of bees and their profitable care. But who shall say that the end of knowledge concerning them has been reached? Verily, there is neither beginning nor ending to the study of this wonderful insect. He who created it gave a most valuable gift to mankind. Not alone for the delicious honey it stores for man's use, but as an aid to the greatest success of the horticulturist the bee should be most highly valued. This is a feature of the bee's important work that cannot be too frequently mentioned, or too highly estimated. Often it has been very clearly shown that had it not been for the multitudinous visits of bees during the blossoming period, but little fruit would have resulted. Intelligent horticulturists of today encourage the keeping of bees in close proximity to their fruit orchards and groves.

Now, let me call your attention from a contemplation of the bee and its lofty place in the economy of Nature, down to a consideration of this organization, which is maintained in the interest of the producers of honey. It has noble and far-reaching objects to carry out, which are sufficiently important to easily justify its existence. But what we need to do at this convention, it seems to me, is to devise plans by which we shall be able to cause the bee-keepers of this land to see the need of their being active members of this organization. While some grand good work has been done during the past two years, there remains much which needs to be accomplished, and very soon. The question is, how can it be done?

In the first place, I have contended all along that we need a large membership. And that will mean a full treasury—a consummation devoutly to be wished. War is expensive. It costs in cash and energy to fight the battles against wrong. But it pays in the end. The one stupendous evil that needs the aid of every bee-keeper in this land in order to secure its overthrow, is the giant of adulteration. Not only the adulteration of honey in the city markets, but the adulteration of almost every food product known today. In order to obtain a successful suppression of this great evil, all organizations must unite, and bring to bear upon those in authority all the influence possible, so that laws already enacted for the suppression of adulteration shall be rigidly enforced; and that new laws shall be passed where such are not now upon the statute books.

Some one has said that the way to secure a national enactment against adulteration of food products is, first, to enforce the state or local laws against the growing evil. I think there is sound sense in this suggestion. In Illinois we have a strong law against the adulteration of foods and medicines but so far I have heard of no attempt at its enforcement. Now, had we sufficient funds at our command, in the treasury of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, I should suggest that we at once begin the prosecution of one of the leading adulterators of honey in Chicago. Could a single clear conviction be secured, with the subsequent heavy fines and term of imprisonment imposed, I have no doubt it would have a most wholesome effect not only upon the price and demand of pure honey in Chicago, but throughout the surrounding country as well. And thus, no doubt, other states might be encouraged to begin the enforcement or passage of similar laws, the result of which would be appreciated by a pure-food loving people—a people who are daily suffering from the evil effects of the consumption of the deleterious and disease-producing substances used in forming the miserable compounds put upon the market today.

Then, it seems to me that this Union should devise and carry out some scheme by which the public may become better acquainted with the merits of the product of the apiary. Too few people are aware of the real value of honey as a food. Too many look upon it as a medicine, and to be taken in homoeopathic doses. Outside of the overthrow of the adulteration, I believe there is no other subject that equals in importance to bee-keepers the widening of the demand or the table use of honey. For years I have been satisfied that were the honey product properly distributed the price realized by the producer would be more satisfactory—more proportionate to the cost of production.

This, of course, will naturally lead to a discussion in co-operation in marketing—a great subject! It has been very plainly hinted to me that I am one who opposed this Union taking up that line of work. Fellow bee-keepers, co-operation in the marketing of honey means much more than most of us have yet thought. If we seemingly are unable to secure a large membership in our Union, when the fee is only one dollar, annually, how could we expect that very many would unite and hold out in an agreement to dispose of their whole crops of honey through this or any other oganization? The great trouble would be, I would fear, that just enough would remain out to so weaken the effect of the Union's efforts along the line of co-operative marketing that failure would be the result. But perhaps by a thorough system of grading, and the establishment of a high standard of purity and quality of the product put on the market through the Union, a demand could be developed sufficiently large so as to take all the best honey that the Union could control or obtain. In that case, success could be assured.

But I am quite willing to leave this whole subject to the wise counsels of the Union's membership—it is too difficult for one small brain to solve satisfatorily.

In conclusion, I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the confidence reposed in me, and of the honor conferred upon me, by my re-election to the presidency of this Union at its meeting in Buffalo last year. With a full realization of my inability to do justice to the requirements of the office, yet I have ever endeavored to do what I could to hold up the Union in its grand mission in the interests of bee-keepers; and I trust that I may be soon permitted to welcome my worthy successor, into whose strong hands I will gladly place the work and responsibility that accompanies the presidential office.

Faithfully yours,
GEORGE W. YORK,
Chicago, Ill., Sept. 1, 1898.

Our Debt to Bumblebees.

Barney Hoskin Standish writes an article on "The Bumblebee" for St. Nicholas. Mr. Standish says: The work of the bumblebee in bringing about the cross fertilization of flowers is as important as that of the honey bee, and these two stand at the head of the list of insects useful in this respect. Each has its flowers which it alone visits, but there are many flowers on neutral ground visited by both. So we may say of the bumblebee, as of the honey bee, the more bumblebees the more seeds; the more seeds the more flowers —especially wild flowers, as the tall bellflower, touch-me-not, Solomon's seal, gentian, Dutchmen's breeches and turtle head. But probably the most important work this insect does for agriculture is upon the fields of red clover. There is abundant proof that this plant will not produce seed without the cooperation of the bumblebee. It is impossible for the wind to bring about the fertilization of the seed, as it may do in the case of Indian corn, grain and some forest trees. The tube of red clover blossoms, too, is so long that other insects (including the honey bee) are not regular visitants.

Here is proof that this plant must have visits from the bumblebee. This insect is not a native of Australia, and red clover failed to produce seed there until bumblebees were imported. As soon as they became numerous the plant could be depended upon for seed. Again, the blosoms of the first crop of the Medium Red clover of our own country are just as perfect as those of the second crop, but there are too few bumblebees in the field, so early in the season, to produce fertilization, hence little or no seed in this crop. If bumblebees were sufficiently numerous, there is no reason why much larger yields of clover seed might not be expected than at present.

Here is what a well informed farmer says about it:

"It was formerly thought that the world rested on the shoulders of Atlas. I can prove that its prosperity rests on the bumblebee. The world cannot prosper without the farmers' product. The farm will not be productive without clover. We cannot raise clover without seed, and we cannot have clover seed without the bumblebee, because it is this insect that carries the pollen from flower to flower, securing its development and continuance. Let us learn to know and to protect our friends."—Ex.

LITERARY NOTES.

It is not often that a contributor to a magazine spends five millions or so of dollars in fitting himself to write knowingly of a subject. But, if popular report be true, that is, approximately, the sum which Joseph Leiter expended in the acquisition of the information necessary to prepare the article which appears over his signature in the November Cosmopolitan on "Wheat." This is Mr. Leiter's first appearance in literature, but he handles the pen with a bold, firm hand that shows him a man of resources.

Another Cosmopolitan contribution which will appeal to every man and woman is the attempt of Harry Thurston Peck to analyze the component parts of the modern woman of fascination. But what does woman fascinate? Is it beauty, grace, spirit, charm of manner, what? Evasive question! But Mr. Peck goes at it as a man who has studied and has had experience.

The Youth's Companion promises to surpass itself during the coming year. Those who read it during 1899 will be introduced to the foremost novelists, explorers, naval officers, poets and men of science in England and the United States. They will be "personally conducted" as it were, into the heart of Africa by Henry M. Stanley; into the Arctic Seas by such explorers as Perry, Greely and Markham, and into spy-ridden Russia by Poultney Bigelow. Gen. Grant, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Robert Louis Stevenson, Gen. Fremont and other celebrities will be presented to them through the medium of anecdotal portraits drawn by their sons or daughters, or intimate friends. The best of all story writers, including Stockton, Howells, Bret Harte, William Black, James Payn, Sarah Orne Jewett and Mary E. Wilkins, will entertain them, and profitable advice on the choice of a career, the care of children and other subjects will be given by such authorities as Sir Clements Markham (President of the Royal Geographical Society), the Right Hon. James Bryce, Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi and the President of the Art Students' League. Among the other contributors will be Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale, the Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. Carl Schurz, Andrew Lang, The Marquis of Dufferin and the Marquis of Lorne.

"Table Talk" constantly grows in value and attraction to the practical housekeeper, in whose interest it is published. It treats of the best methods of preparing, cooking and serving food. It gives large space, also, to the literature of home-making and home-keeping. The November number is filled from cover to cover with things by Martha Bockee Flint, treats of cook-with the recipes of centuries ago and is amusing and interesting. "Anticipating Christmas," by Mrs. Burton Kingsland, will be helpful to many. The Housekeeper's Inquiry Department is filled with information on subjects that perplex the housewife. The Menus for Thanksgiving Dinners will be suggestive in preparing the feast for that day of family home-coming. Other articles are entertaining and informative to the busy housekeeper. Sample copy of this ideal housekeeping magazine will be sent free to our readers by addressing Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Bees are an absolute necessity to successful fruit-growing.

Quinine desolved in amonia is said to be a good specific for bee-stings.

Comb honey should always be kept in a warm, dry place.

The annual convention of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association will take place at Guelph, Ont., Dec. 6 to 8.

Index to the American Bee-Keeper for 1898.

SUBJECTS.

Advanced Methods of Comb Honey Production 192
Bees and Bee-Keeping, About...... 10
Bees Bring Bliss.....................14
Breeding From Good Stock, Importance of..........................53
Bee-Keeping in Florida.............58
Bee-Keeping in Old Mexico..........70
Bee Culture in Japan...............133
Bees Invade a Candy Factory.......145
Bee-Keepers' Sad Plight...........154
Bees and Horticulture..............161
Bee-Keeping in Chili...............187
Crocuses and Bees....................1
Cellar Wintering of Bees, About the.12
"Coming Bee"—Apis Dorsata, That..59
Comb-Building in the Open Air......75
Can Insects Talk?...................77
Comb Honey Production, Some Points in 114
Cuban Thoughts and Observations..139
Cutting Queen-Cells to Prevent Swarming 149
Care in Winter and Spring.........152
Comments............................184
Clouds and Sunshine...............202
Death of Charles F. Muth..........120
Do Bees Injure Grapes..............13
Duties of an Apiarist, Some of the...33
Defending Our Rights...............124
Driving Bees to Pasture...........186
Days Gone By......................187
Extracting Honey, Details in........35
Early Spring Work...................57
Educating the Dealer................73
Extracted Honey, Management for.116
Eleven Months With Bees..........131
Extracting Thick Honey Late in the Season 167
Foul Brood Laws, As to.............43
Farmer and the Market, The........70
Finished Sections, Are They Desirable 90
Facing Comb Honey...............137
Finding Queens....................159
Go Slow..............................60
Honey Bees Capture a Ship..........14
Honey-Ant Pie.......................15
How I Started in Bee-Keeping.......82
Honey From Basswood...............86
Honey Market, The.................100
How to Introduce a Valuable Queen Safely............................129
Hive Covers.........................138
Honey Without Separators.........160
How the Union May Effectively Use What Strength It Has............175
Honey Production in Our New West Indian Possessions...............191
Italian Bee, The.....................81
Improving Our Resources..........181
Jolley Career, A...................101
Keeping a Record...................74
Locations Suited to the Keeping of Bees 37
Letter From Maine, A..............108
Land of Flowers, From the.........165
Low Prices.........................200
Marketing, The Problem of.......... ....49, 97, 99, 121
Mr. John Newton....................67
Moving Bees—Some Personal Experiences 121
Making Honey Sell at Home........144
Milkweed Honey...................158
Mr. C. B. Howard..................173
My Bee-Keeping Experience........199
North and the South, The...........43
Notes on Apiary Work...............69
No-Wall Foundation.................73
New York State Association of Bee-Keepers' Societies................84
National Queen-Breeders' Union.... ....151, 183
Northern Michigan.................169
Olden-Time Bee-Keeping............51
Old Combs for Brood................91
Omaha Bee Building, The..........137
Our Debt to Bumblebees...........209
Plain Sections.....................205
President's Annual Address.......207
Progress in Bee-Culture..............4
Practical Lessons...................45
Plain vs. Old-Style Sections.........56
Position of Combs in Moving.......72
Protection in Sight.................90
Power of Association, The..........113
Prevention of Increase.............133
Queen and Her Mating, The........134
Report of a Migratory Specialist....155
Range of Honey Bees...............194
Source of Bee-Keeping Knowledge..90
Shipping of Comb Honey, The........8
Seasonable Suggestions.............36
Surplus Foundation..................44
Spring Management.................65
Stimulative Feeding.................66
Shade for Hives....................101
Supply Trade, The..................120
Southern Honey, Relating to.......189
The Champion, Who's?..............42
To Meet at Omaha..................143
The Bee a Napoleonic Emblem......154
The "Canadian Industrial"..........159
Talking Wild........................159
The Season's Honey Flow...........201
Trial of Plain Sections..............201
Using Barrels for Honey............206
Uniting Small Colonies.............197
United States Bee-Keepers' Union..124
Union's "Large" Fund, The.........159
U. S. B. K. U. Convention..........174

Wintering Bees, On.................1
When Kings Ruled the Hive.......103
Weak Colonies, When Unite........117
Where It Pays to Take Time.......153
White or Dark Sections............157
Wintering Bees Out of Doors.......166
Why Hybrids Predominate, Etc....173
White Clover 195

INDEX TO CONTRIBUTORS.

Benton, Frank......................37
Bussler, F..........................70
Baxter, C. Stanley.................100
Case, J. B..................53, 81, 151
Doolittle, G. M...............33, 51, 82, 86, 97, 117, 129, 131, 149, 167, 197
Grimsley, J. O.....................183
Hutchinson, W. Z.............35, 114
Hill, H. E..........................67
Howe, Harry S................84, 153
Hart, W. S.........................165
Howard, C. B.......................166
Ikeda, J............................133
Jolley, Ed......1, 36, 49, 66, 99, 101, 181
Keeler, S. M........................69
Main, L. M.........................202
Newton, John..................65, 116
"Optimus," 131
Palmer, C. E........................199
Putnam, Bessie L....................1
Reeve, M. F..................154, 201
Rosenfield, Elvarino 101
Shepherd, M. W................70, 200
Secor, Hon. Eugene................113
Theilmann, C.......................133
Thorington, Fred S................152
Tefft, J. W..........................184

INDEX TO DEPARTMENTS.

Bee Brevities..............92, 106, 126
Editorial...................16, 40, 56, 72, 88, 104, 120, 136, 156, 172, 188, 204
Items of Interest.......38, 55, 61, 71, 87
Literary Notes......17, 45, 110, 146, 162, 178, 195, 210
Miscellaneous 18
News and Notes....................175
Our Correspondents.......3, 93, 108, 125, 143, 154, 177, 185
Our Extractor.......4, 37, 144, 160, 169

INDEX TO ILLUSTRATIONS.

A Winter Scene in Florida...........41
Apiary of G. M. Doolittle............89
Apiary of W. Z. Hutchinson........115
A Cuban Apiary....................122
Apiarian Building, Omaha, Neb.....137
A Royal Palm......................140
Apiary of C. B. Howard............167
A Northern Michigan Apiary.......170
C. B. Howard.......................166
C. E. Palmer and His Apiary.......199
Ed. Jolley..........................101
G. M. Doolittle.....................168
Harry S. Howe.......................85
Higginsville Ventilated Cover......138
Hill's Ventilated Cover.............139
John Newton.........................67
Milkweed 158
Officers of the U. S. B. K. U.........113
Officers of the N. Q. B. U...........151
Object Lesson in Comb-Building....203
Plain Sections.......................205
South Florida Apiary................58
Sprig of Willow Herb...............175
Woodstock Apiary..................68
W. Z. Hutchinson..................114
Where the Bees Revel in July......181

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET REPORT.

Below we give the latest and most authentic report of the Honey and Beeswax market in different trade centers:

New York, N. Y., Oct. 26. 1[illegible]—Honey: Demand for honey very good at [illegible]rices. Receipts during the past few week[illegible]en fully up to the average years. Fancy White honey in demand; other grades of White and Buckwheat in plenty. We quote market to-day as follows: Fancy White, 13½@14½c; Fair White, 12@13c; Buckwheat, 8½@10c; Amber, 9@11c; Mixed, 9@11.

Extracted Honey—Our market is in good shape for all grades. Would suggest shipping now. We quote as follows: White Clover, 6@7c; Amber, 5½@6½c; Buckwheat. 5@6c; Florida White, 6@7c; Florida Light Amber, 5½@6½c. Other grades of Southern honey, 55@65c per gal., according to the quality.

Beeswax—Our market during the past week has shown a slight improvement, though we do not anticipate much more advance for sometime to come. We are selling at 25½@26½c. per lb.

When shipping, we would ask that all packages be marked plainly, the gross, tare and net weight.

Yours truly,
Francis H. Leggett & Co.
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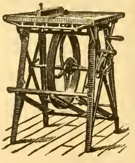
Albany, N. Y. Nov. 3, 1898—Honey market in good shape here, Receipts and stocks lighter than former seasons. White Comb, 13@14c; No. 1, 12@13c; Medium, 11@12c; Buckwheat, 8½@9c, Extracted Buckwheat, 5½@6c; Amber, 6@6½c; White, 7@7½. Yours,
H. R. Wright.
326, 328, 330 Broadway & 9, 11, 13, Hamilton St.



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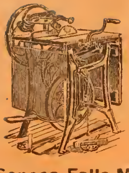

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